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W. A.
Smith





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**MEMOIRS, LETTERS,
ETC.**

VOL. I.

MEMOIRS, LETTERS,
AND
COMIC MISCELLANIES,
IN
PROSE AND VERSE,

OF THE LATE
JAMES SMITH, ESQ.

ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF
"THE REJECTED ADDRESSES."

EDITED BY HIS BROTHER,
HORACE SMITH, ESQ.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I

PHILADELPHIA:
CAREY AND HART.

1841.



1875
1876
1877

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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR

OF THE LATE

JAMES SMITH, ESQ.

BY HIS BROTHER,

HORACE SMITH.

VOL. I.—2

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR.

To those anonymous writers who have formed, during a course of many years, the delight and ornament of our periodical literature, evincing the talents without achieving the renown of recognised and successful authorship, it is no more than a bare act of justice to collect, after their decease, the scattered products of their fancy, and to consolidate them, in each case, into a monument which may record the name, appropriate the writings, and prolong the memory of him to whom it is dedicated.

It would be difficult to select an individual better entitled to this posthumous honour than the late James Smith, whose prolific muse cared not upon what shrine she deposited her offerings, and whose good-humour prompted him to such a ready compliance with the constant applications for occasional contributions of every description, that it has become almost impossible to recover the whole of these truly fugitive pieces, or even to ascertain the full extent of the literary paternity to which he may lay claim. His published productions are more easily to be found than those "strays and waifs" still floating about the world in manuscript; but some will doubtless have escaped research, for they spread over a series of years, were committed to various periodicals, and were not always identified by any distinguishing signature. Hastily written, and carelessly dispersed, it may be doubted whether the author himself, singularly tenacious as his memory was, could at any time have furnished an accurate list of his own

“disjecta membra.” A few of his recognised papers and poems, which appeared to possess only a local or temporary interest, I have ventured to omit; as well as a portion of the published letters entitled **“Endymion the Exile,”** and **“Grimm’s Ghost;”** being more anxious to present such a selection as may enable the reader to form a fair estimate of the author’s versatile powers, than to increase the bulk of the volumes by filling them with effusions which, however interesting on their first appearance, might now be deemed frivolous or obsolete.

Even in those that are retained, allusions will be found to the passing events, topics, and characters of the day, which may not be always clearly intelligible, unless the reader refers to the date of their production, and bears in mind that they were not only written on the impulse of the moment, but for the prevalent feeling of the moment.

As the writer’s name is now, for the first time, appended to his productions, the reader will naturally expect to receive some account of the author to whom he is about to be introduced.

A short but most able biographical memoir, written by a gentleman of distinguished literary attainments, with whose friendship the deceased was honoured, has already appeared in the *Law Magazine*, No. 47; but as the circulation of that periodical is chiefly restricted to the members of the profession, I shall not hesitate to make occasional use of its materials, contenting myself with this general acknowledgment of my obligations to the writer.

The subject of the following memoir was the eldest son of Robert Smith, an eminent legal practitioner, of London, who held for many years the office of Solicitor to the Ordnance, and was also engaged in an extensive private practice: distinguishing himself in both, by great legal knowledge and acuteness, by an unblemished integrity, and by the zealous discharge, during a protracted life, of every professional and social duty. A member of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, to both of which he contributed several valuable papers; pos-

possessing an extensive knowledge of mankind, arising from a natural sagacity and penetration, aided by his frequent travels; gifted with a singularly handsome face and figure, and not less prepossessing from his colloquial cheerfulness and wit; his society was eagerly courted and highly appreciated by an extensive circle of acquaintance, whose partiality, however, was never suffered to interfere with the diligent discharge of his professional avocations.

Although he gave some of his own idler moments to an occasional dalliance with the muse, well knowing that she would never betray him into any neglect of his graver pursuits, yet a lurking apprehension that his sons might not prove equally discreet in this respect, and a natural solicitude for their welfare, quickened, perhaps, by a sense of the ridicule attached to the moon-struck youth

“Who pens a stanza when he should engross,”

prompted him to discourage rather than foster their early literary predilections. In later years, when he had survived this misgiving, he was gratified by the unexpected success of their humble efforts, and sometimes amused himself by recommending subjects, and supplying materials, to the writer of this memoir, for his historical novels; suggestions and aids for which he was well qualified, by his extensive reading as well as his profound knowledge of English history.

His eldest son, James, thus named after his maternal grandfather, James Bogle French, an eminent and wealthy merchant of London, was born in that city on the 10th of February, 1775, and was indebted for the greater portion of his education to the Reverend Mr. Burford, who presided over a long-established school at Chigwell, in Essex, and who was so much pleased by the early display of talent which invariably placed his young pupil at the head of his class, that he not only overlooked many of the scrapes into which he was hurried by a somewhat pranksome disposition, but favoured him with

several little indulgences, of which he ever retained a most grateful recollection.

The seat appropriated to the master, at one end of the large old-fashioned school-room, was surmounted by a sounding board, projecting from the wall, upon which the more mischievous boys would occasionally throw the books of their play-fellows, in order to subject them to the penalty imposed for their recovery; an object only to be attained by an application to one of the servants, and the assistance of a ladder. To redeem a missing Virgil, and at the same time to avoid punishment should it be reported "absent without leave," James contrived, at no little personal risk, to climb up to the sounding-board, where he not only recovered his own volume, but in searching among the dust and rubbish which had been collecting for many years, stumbled upon an old torn copy of Hoole's Ariosto.

This treasure-trove was a source of great delight to him; he would sit up in a tree, on the half-holidays, or wander in the fields, devouring its contents, long after the curiosity of a first reading had been satiated. He preserved the tattered volume for many years; several passages of the Orlando Furioso remained indelibly impressed upon his memory; and in one of the latest poems that he composed he makes allusion to this favourite recreation of his boyhood.

For the village of Chigwell and its pleasant neighbourhood, James Smith cherished, in after life, a marked and unvaried predilection—rarely suffering a long interval to elapse without paying it a visit, and wandering over the scenes that recalled the truant excursions of himself and chosen playmates, or the solitary rambles and musings of his youth. The whole of the surrounding scenery, every picturesque view, "each alley green, and bosky bourne," nay, every individual field and tree, remained so firmly pictured upon his mind, that he could immediately detect the smallest alteration since his first arrival at the school. Not even the many and growing infirmities of his later years were suffered to interfere with these visits. To the spots whither a

carriage or a horse could not carry him he hobbled upon crutches, and thus contrived to reach the secluded nook, or the sequestered stream, where he had read or bathed upwards of fifty years before.

The changes that had occurred in this long period, together with the reminiscences associated with the locality, have been recorded in two poems, entitled, "Chigwell," and "Chigwell Revisited,"—written not very long before his death, and which, from their subject, as well as their soberer and more reflective tone, have, perhaps, a better chance of exciting a durable interest than the generality of their competitors, however pleasant and sparkling.

As these poems may be looked upon as characteristic fragments of autobiography, they will not perhaps be deemed out of place if we insert them here.

CHIGWELL ;

OR, "PRÆTERITOS ANXIOS."

School that, in Berford's honour'd time,
Rear'd me to youth's elastic prime
From childhood's airy slumbers—
School at whose antique shrine I bow,
Sexagenarian pilgrim now,
Accept a poet's numbers.

Those yew-trees never seem to grow :
The village stands in *statu quo*,
Without a single new house.
But, heav'ns, how shrunk ! how very small !
'Tis a mere step from Urnstone's wall,
"Up town," to Morgan's brewhouse.

There, in yon rough-cast mansion, dwelt
Sage Denham, Galen's son, who dealt
In squills and cream of tartar ;
Fronting the room where now I dine,
Beneath thy undulating sign,
Peak-bearded Charles the Martyr !

Pent in by beams of mouldering wood
 The parish stocks stand where they stood—
 Did ever drunkard rue 'em?
 I dive not in parochial law,
 Yet this I know—I never saw
 Two legs protruded through 'em.

Here, to the right, rose hissing proofs
 Of skill to solder horses' hoofs,
 Form'd in the forge of Radley;
 And there, the almshouses beyond,
 Half-way before you gain the Pond,
 Lived wry-mouthed Martin Hadley.

Does Philby still exist? Where now
 Are Willis, Wilcox, Green, and Howe?
 Ann Wright, the smart and handy?
 Hillman alone a respite steals
 From Fate; and—*vice* Hadley—deals
 In tea and sugar-candy.

Can I my school-friend Belson track?
 Where hides him Chamberlaine? where Black,
 Intended for the altar?
 Does life-blood circulate in Bates?
 Where are Jack Cumberlege and Yates?
 The Burrells, Charles and Walter.

There, at your ink-bespatter'd shrine,
 Cornelius Nepos first was mine;
 Here fagg'd I hard at Plutarch:
 Found Ovid's mighty pleasant ways,
 While Plato's metaphysic maze
 Appear'd like *Phuto*—too dark.

Here usher Ireland sat—and there
 Stood Bolton, Cowel, Parker, Ware,
 Medley, the pert and witty,
 And here—crack station, near the fire—
 Sat Roberts, whose Haymarket sire
 Sold oil and spermaceti.

Yon pew, the gallery below,
Held Nancy, pride of Chigwell Row,
Who set all hearts a dancing :
In bonnet white, divine brunette,
O'er Burnet's field I see thee yet,
To Sunday church advancing.

Seek we the churchyard ; there the yew
Shades many a swain whom once I knew,
Now nameless and forgotten ;
Here towers Sir Edward's marble bier,
Here lies stern Vickery, and here,
My father's friend, Tom Cotton.

The common herd serenely sleep,
Turf-bound, "in many a mouldering heap"
Pent in by bands of ozier ;
While at the altar's feet is laid
The founder of the school, array'd
In mitre and in crosier.

'Tis nature's law : wave urges wave :
The coffin'd grandsire seeks the grave,
The babe that feeds by suction,
Finds with his ancestor repose :
Life ebbs, and dissolution sows
The seeds of reproduction.

World, in thy ever busy mart,
I've acted no unnoticed part—
Would I resume it ? oh no !
Four acts are done, the jest grows stale ;
The waning lamps burn dim and pale,
And reason asks—*Cui bono ?*

I've met with no "affliction sore ;"
But hold ! methinks, "long time I bore ;"
Here ends my lucubration—
Content, with David's son, to know,
That all is vanity below,
Tho' not quite all vexation.

CHIGWELL REVISITED.

Deceived by the amiable Nuns,
 A pilgrim to an Eastern shrine,
 I once again out-sally :
 Again to Chigwell wander back,
 And, more extensive, aim to track
 Each neighbouring hill and valley.

Strange that a village should survive,
 For ten years multiplied by five,
 The same in size and figure.
 Knowing our plenty our distress—
 If suited by fortune, why no less !
 If favoured, why no bigger !

Say, why has population got
 Speed-bound upon this level spot,
 Undamaged by profusion !
 A tyrant, I the question ask—
 Be thou, Miss Martineau, the task
 To tender the solution.

I pass the Vicar's white abode,
 And, pondering, gain the upward road,
 By busy thoughts o'ertaken,
 To where "The pride of Chigwell Row"
 Still lives—a handsome widow now,
 As erst a lovely maiden.

Here hills and dales and distant Thame,
 And forest glens, green proof proclaim
 Of Nature's lavish bounty,
 And dub thee, lofty region, still
 Surrey's tall foe, the Richmond Hill
 Of this our eastern county.

Diverging from the road, the sod
 I tread that once a boy I trod,
 With pace not quite so nimble—
 But where's the May-pole next the lane !
 Who dared to banish from the plain
 That wreathed-encircled symbol !

ASKIDEX, her tank, and waterfall.
 The path beneath Sir Eliab's wall,
 I once again am stepping;
 Beyond that round we rarely stirr'd,
 LOUGHTON we saw, but only heard
 Of Ongar and of Epping.

Seek we "the river's" grassy verge,
 Where all were destined to immerge,
 Or willing or abhorrent;
 I view the well-known "Mill-hole" still—
 But time has dwindled to a rill
 What seem'd, of yore, a torrent.

Here, fell destroyer, many a wound
 The woodman's axe has dealt around:
 Lee Grove in death reposes.
 Yet while her Dryads seek their tombs,
 The miller's moated garden blooms
 With all its wonted roses.

There, in yon copse, near Palmer's Gate,
 Reclined, I mourn'd thy hapless fate,
 Zerbino amoroso,
 Glad to elope from both the schools,
 "The world shut out," intent on Hoole's
 "Orlando Furioso."

Twilight steals on: I wander back;
 The listless ploughman's homeward track
 Again in thought I follow;
 Or sit the antique porch within,
 Awed by the belfry's deafening din,
 And watch the wheeling swallow.

Chigwell, I cease thy charms to sing—
 Time bears me elsewhere on his wing;
 Perhaps, ere long, the poet,
 Who now, in mental vigour bold,
 Parades, erect, thy churchyard mould,
 May sleep, supine, below it.*

* The writer never expressed any subsequent wish that this suggestion of the moment should be realized.—ED.

So let it be : Time, take thy course ;
 Let dotards with tenacious force
 Cling to this waning planet—
 I'd rather soar to death's abode
 On eagle's wings, than "live a toad"
 Pent in a block of granite.

Grant me the happier lot of him,
 Elate in hope, alert in limb,
 Who hurls Bellona's jav'lin ;
 Fame's laurel ardent to entwine,
 Dares death above the countermine,
 And meets him on the rav'lin.

I fear not, Fate, thy pendent shears,—
 There are who pray for length of years ;
 To them, not me, allot 'em :
 Life's cup is nectar at the brink,
 Midway a palatable drink,
 And wormwood at the bottom.

After the completion of his education, James Smith was articled to his father, was taken into partnership in due time, and eventually succeeded to the business, as well as to the appointment of Solicitor to the Ordnance. At no period, however, did his professional engagements alienate him altogether from literary pursuits.

His natural tendency to banter and cajolery was evinced while he was yet a youngster, by a pleasant hoax upon the editor of an old established magazine, to whom he transmitted several letters containing a grave account of some remarkable antiquarian discoveries and entomological facts, the startling nature of which attested the inventive powers of the writer, without exciting the suspicions of his victim. What added to the zest of this juvenile pleasantry was the circumstance that his father and several of his antiquarian friends, who were readers of the magazine in question, repeatedly led upon these fictitious statements, without ever

dreaming that the waggish author was sitting by their sides, and laughing in his sleeve at their various conjectures. At a more mature age he would not perhaps have considered a deception, even of this playful nature, to be quite justifiable.

In the early part of the year 1801, Colonel Henry Greville, assisted by M. Texier, gave a theatrical fête, with a pic-nic supper, to a select circle of his acquaintance ; a mode of amusement which afforded such high gratification, that it was proposed to renew it the following winter, on the plan of a regular establishment, limited to a certain number of fashionable subscribers, combining the amusements of acting-music, and dancing, and to conclude with a supper, and catches and glees.

Two hundred and thirty persons of the first rank and distinction were presently enrolled ; a little theatre was erected at the old Concert Rooms in Tottenham Street, and the orchestra was filled with amateur performers. The actresses were all professional ; cards and dice were strictly prohibited ; and any surplus that might remain at the conclusion of the season was to be presented to the fund for decayed actors.

Rational and harmless as was this mode of recreation, and unimpeachable as were the characters of the distinguished lady patronesses, the Pic-Nic Society, and its whole scheme of entertainment were vehemently assailed by the public press ; no calumny or misrepresentation being spared that might defeat its object, by intimidating its members.

These false and ungenerous attacks succeeded. To escape from such a torrent of scurrility, seventy of the subscribers withdrew their names ; the performances were dropped after eight nights ; and though attempts were subsequently made to establish something of a similar nature at the Argyll Rooms, the Society had soon no other representative than the Pic-Nic Newspaper, which Colonel Greville had started in 1802, for the combined purpose of justifying his own motives, of refuting the slanders with which the association had been so unsparingly assailed, and of checking the scandalous personali-

ties with which some of the newspapers were incessantly bespattering the whole body of the aristocracy.

In seeking gratuitous coadjutors for his weekly paper, Colonel Greville applied to James Smith and his brother Horace, who found themselves honorably associated with Mr. Cumberland, Sir James Bland Burgess, Mr. Croker, Mr. J. C. Herries, and one or two more; Mr. Combe, the voluminous and well-known writer, being the editor, and the only one who received any remuneration for his contributions and assistance. To accommodate the latter gentleman, who had resided for many years in the rules of the King's Bench, the weekly meetings at Hatchard's did not commence until it was night, an arrangement which afforded the indispensable protection of darkness to the worthy editor.*

A paper which was a Pic-Nic by nature, as well as by

* A faithful biography of this singular character might justly be entitled a Romance of Real Life, so strange were the adventures and the freaks of Fortune of which he had been a participator and a victim. After wasting a handsome patrimony in fashionable dissipation, he enlisted as a common soldier, and was indebted for the subscription that purchased his discharge to the circumstance of his being discovered by one of the officers reading a Greek *Æschylus* in the guard-room. A ready writer of all-work for the booksellers, he passed all the latter portion of his life within the Rules, to which suburban retreat the present writer was occasionally invited, and, never left him without admiring his various acquirements, and the philosophical equanimity with which he endured his reverses. Besides the numerous works known to be his, Mr. Combe was the author of "Lord Lyttelton's Letters," and of the Letters attributed to Sterne. The Life of Ann Sheldon, afterwards Mrs. Archer, published in 4 vols. 12mo., containing a store of anecdotes in which many persons of the first rank and fashion were introduced, although purporting to have been composed by herself, Bowes asserts to have been written by Combe, during his residence in the King's Bench. If a column or two of the newspaper remained unsupplied at the last moment, an occurrence by no means unusual, Mr. Combe would sit down in the publisher's back room, and extemporize a letter to Sterne at Coxwold, a forgery so well executed that it excited suspicion.

name, was not calculated for longevity, each contributor pouring in supplies, or withholding them altogether, according to the whim of the moment ; all thinking themselves qualified to give an opinion as to its direction ; the nominal manager having no authority to control his little troop of volunteers ; and the proprietor no capital to carry on the newspaper war. As the name itself had become obnoxious, it merged into that of "The Cabinet," which maintained a struggling and unprofitable existence until July 1803, when it finally disappeared. A selection from the Pic-Nic Papers, in two small volumes, was published in 1803.

Of the contributions made by James Smith to these two papers, I have given specimens, omitting others which were solely calculated for the topics and feelings of the day. His passion for the drama prompted him to compose theatrical colloquies, in imitation of Dryden's *Dialogues*, the interlocutors assuming ancient classical names, while discussing the merits of modern plays ; a pedantic incongruity, which it was hardly worth while to renew. Under the title of "Endymion the Exile," he composed a series of light papers, bearing so close a resemblance to those which at a later period purported to emanate from "Grimm's Ghost," that I have only inserted a few, as a sample of their general style.

In perusing the writings of these years, it will be seen that they are strongly imbued with the Buonaparte-phobia of the period, and that they betray the author's early tendency to parody,—most of the poems being imitations of popular pieces by our favourite bards. "The Mammoth," admirably translated into French by M. Peltier, a well-known political writer of that day, was inserted in several of the continental journals, and excited some notice beyond the immediate sphere in which it first appeared.

In the year 1809, James Smith, at the solicitation of his friend Mr. Cumberland, consented to become a contributor to the *London Review*, conducted on the new principle of affixing the writer's name to his critique ; and as the solitary paper which he gave to this work is

on the pleasant and ever interesting subject of cookery, it is inserted in the following collection. It was his first attempt in this species of writing, for which indeed, his kindliness and good-humour but little qualified him.

The London Review, as might have been anticipated, proved a complete failure. If concealment affords a strong and often an irresistible temptation to the gratification of malice, and the splenetic effusions of envy, an avowal of the critic's name must inevitably blunt or misdirect the sword of justice ; thus seducing him into an opposite extreme, and affording a fresh proof that the reverse of wrong is not always right. Absolute impartiality is hardly attainable ; for almost every man, even without being conscious of the fact, has his little prejudices and prepossessions ; but the fearlessness and independence possessed by an anonymous writer are calculated to make a much nearer approach to fair criticism than the fettering responsibility imposed by the reviewer's signature. Not only is there an appearance of arrogance in substituting the name of an individual for that of the solemn and mysterious " We ;" but the man who is hampered and disarmed by publicity will only exercise a portion of the critic's functions ; avoiding all notice of those whom he is afraid to attack, however manifest may be their demerits ; over-lauding the objects of his favour, and attempting to neutralize the conscious excess of these encomiums by an undue severity towards the humbler aspirants whom he thinks he may victimize with impunity.

Not possessing a sufficient list of contributors or weight of talent to counteract these many and glaring disadvantages, the London Review was soon discontinued.

At the instance of its projector, James and his brother Horace wrote several of the prefaces to a new edition of " Bell's British Theatre," which was published about this time, under the sanction of Mr. Cumberland's name. That distinguished writer, who honoured both parties with his friendship, was pleased in having them for his coadjutors ; and they were naturally flattered in being thought worthy of such a preference by such a man.

From the year 1807 to 1810, James Smith was a constant contributor to the "Monthly Mirror," then the property of Thomas Hill, Esq., at whose ever hospitable board, at Sydenham, himself and his brother were frequent guests; generally encountering some of the popular wits, literati, and artists, and never quitting his cottage without the pleasant recollection of a cordial welcome, and much convivial enjoyment, among companions equally distinguished for their solid attainments, and their social vivacity.

Most gratifying is it to the present writer, on his occasional visits to the metropolis, to find his former host of Sydenham looking as fresh, as happy, and as young, as in the merry meetings of their first acquaintance;—such is the age-repelling influence of a kindly disposition, united to a cheerful, life-enjoying temperament. Long may their possessor be spared, that he may teach contemporaries the happy art of deriving useful experience from the progress of time, without exhibiting any of the corporeal marks of decay that are the usual concomitants of advancing years.

In the "Monthly Mirror" originally appeared the poetical imitations entitled "Horace in London," which were subsequently published in a single volume by Mr. Miller, who purchased half the copyright of the "Rejected Addresses." Both brothers contributed to these parodies of the Roman bard; but the larger and better portion, distinguished by the letter J., was from the pen of James. Possessing but a fugitive interest, though sometimes the Latin text was ingeniously adapted to the characters and occurrences of the passing hour, these papers, in their collected form, had but a limited sale.

As the present writer, in his preface to the eighteenth edition, has already furnished most of the particulars connected with the first appearance of the "Rejected Addresses," he can make but few and trifling additions to that statement. The little volume in question, one of the luckiest hits in literature, appeared on the re-opening of Drury Lane Theatre, in October, 1812, the idea having been casually started by the late Mr. Ward, secretary to,

the theatre, exactly six weeks before the first night of performance. Eagerly adopting the suggestion, James and his brother lost not a moment in carrying it into execution. It was arranged what authors they should respectively imitate: Horace left London on a visit to Cheltenham, executed his portion of the task, and returned to town a few days before the opening, when each submitted his papers to the other, for any omissions or improvements that might appear requisite. These, however, (for haste was urgently necessary, and neither of the parties disposed to be very critical,) seldom exceeded verbal alterations, or the addition of a few lines. The articles written by James were the following:—

No. 2. The Baby's Début. By W. W. (Wordsworth.)

No. 5. Hampshire Farmer's Address. By W. C. (Cobbett.)

No. 7. The Re-building. By W. S. (Southey.)

No. 13. Playhouse Musings. By S. T. C. (Coleridge.)

No. 14. Drury Lane Hustings. A New Half-penny Ballad. By a Pic-Nic Poet. (A quiz on what are called humorous songs.)

No. 16. Theatrical Alarum Bell. By the Editor of the M. P. (Morning Post.)

No. 17. The Theatre. By the Rev. G. C. (Crabbe.)

Nos. 18, 19, 20. Macbeth, George Barnwell, and The Stranger: Travesties.

He supplied also the first stanza to No. 4, Cui Bono? By Lord B. (Byron.) For all the rest of the original work the writer of this memoir is responsible. Of the eighteenth edition (Murray's) James wrote the notes, and his brother the preface. The copyright, which had been originally offered to Mr. Murray for twenty pounds, was purchased by that gentleman, in 1819, after the sixteenth edition, for £131. He has since published three editions, and sold nearly four thousand copies. While penning this memoir, the writer has received,

through the polite attention of Mr. William Ticknor, of Boston, a new reprint, (from the nineteenth London edition,) rendered necessary, as the publisher states in his preface, by the undiminished interest of the work, and the great demand for it in America.

Notwithstanding this wide-spread diffusion of his reputation, James would humorously illustrate the limited and ephemeral nature of fame, by an incident that happened to himself in a Brighton coach. An old lady, struck with his extraordinary familiarity with things and people, at length burst forth—"And, pray, sir,—you, who seem to know everybody—pray, may I ask who *you* are?" "James Smith, ma'am." This, evidently, conveying nothing to her mind, a fellow passenger added, "One of the authors of 'Rejected Addresses.' " The old lady stared at them by turns, and then quietly said, "I never heard of the gentleman or the book before."

Although a moderate share of success generally invites an author to fresh endeavour, a great and sudden popularity will sometimes arrest, rather than stimulate, the progress of his pen; for the public is exorbitant in its demands, and, far from being satisfied, even should a writer transcend all other competitors, will insist upon his surpassing himself also. Aware of this unreasonable expectation, James inflexibly adhered to his favourite position, that when once a man has made a good hit, he should rest upon it, and leave off a winner,—a maxim which he was wont to strengthen by Bishop Warburton's authority. When Anstey, the author of the "Bath Guide," was presented to the veteran, he said, "Young man, I will give you a piece of advice: you have written a highly successful work;—never put pen to paper again."

The relator of the anecdote did not literally obey the injunction, but he seemed more apprehensive of diminishing, than desirous of increasing, the fame he had already achieved, and would not compromise himself by any literary undertaking beyond short and anonymous

pieces. Like Fear, in Collin's Ode, he had once loudly struck the lyre,—

“ And back recoiled, he knew not why,
Ev'n at the sound himself had made.”

Had he not, however, been prevented by this misgiving, it may be doubted whether he would have undertaken any work requiring research or continuous application; for he was fond of his ease, seldom wrote except as an amusement and relief from graver occupations, and was unsolicitous of further celebrity than such as might be acquired by those fugitive effusions and *vers de société* in which he so eminently excelled, and which he could produce with so little effort.

There is much acuteness in the remark made by Lady Blessington, that if James Smith had not been a man of wit, he would have achieved a much higher reputation. Having won the prize which appeared to him the only worthy object of contention—a welcome reception wherever he went, and a distinguished position in society—he wanted all motive for further and more serious exertion. Perhaps, also, his wonderful memory, a gift seldom favourable to originality, contributed to the same result: for, he who can recall the thoughts and opinions of the great intellects of the world, upon all the leading subjects wherein the world is interested, will deem it an unnecessary trouble, if he be an indolent man, and presumptuous if he be a modest one, to obtrude his own reflections on the public. It is much easier to repeat than to compose; and though the Muses, we are told, are the daughters of Memory, Necessity is the mother of Invention.

Although larger in bulk, and more important in character, James Smith's contributions to Mr. Mathews's Entertainments hardly form an exception to the remarks we have just made; for they were so congenial to the general character of his mind, and tone of his conversation, as to be thrown off with a marvellous facility. Anecdotes, songs, jokes, puns, and laughterstirring merriment,

occasionally rising into wit, but more frequently assuming the character of farce and extravaganza,—was mere pastime to a mind like his, which was an inexhaustible storehouse of such materials; and there can be little doubt that the writer found quite as much pleasure in composing, as the spectator in witnessing, these merry mockeries, in which the author and the actor were equally “at home.”

“Smith is the only man,” Mathews used to say, “who can write clever nonsense,”—and of all living humorists, Mathews was the refined intellectual wag, and dramatic imitator, best calculated to give full and irresistible effect to “clever nonsense;” though his powers, when the occasion required it, could take a much higher range. Both might well deem themselves fortunate in their alliance, when, in 1820, the “Country Cousins” made their first appearance at the English Opera, and for many succeeding nights convulsed the town with laughter.

Their brilliant success stimulating the author to achieve further triumphs of the same nature, he produced, in the two succeeding years, and with the same prosperous result, the “Trip to France,” and the “Trip to America.” Sheridan once said of Dundas, that he trusted to his imagination for his facts, and to his memory for his jokes; an observation that might be applied literally, and not in an invidious sense, to these hasty productions, the writer of which first imagined a slight story or framework, and then filled it up with jests, which were as often recollected as extemporized.

Neither wild fancies and merry conceits, however, (whether old or new,) nor the face, voice, and manner of the actor, constituted the chief merit of these motley compositions; for they exhibited touches of true comedy, as well as various and faithful traits of life and character, which none but a man of wit, in the higher acceptance of that term, and a close observer of society, could have produced.

Mr. Mathews, who was a most liberal and generous man, although he had occasionally received gratuitous assistance from his ally, paid him a thousand pounds

for these latter works—a sum to which the receiver seldom made allusion without shrugging up his shoulders, and ejaculating, “A thousand pounds for nonsense!” At other times he would contrast this large amount with the miserable fifteen pounds given to Milton for his *Paradise Lost*; reconciling himself, however, to the disproportion by quoting from the well-known couplet, that the real value of a thing “is as much money as ’twill bring;”—and adding, that his scumble-scramble stuff always filled the theatre, and replenished the treasury.

At a later period he was still better paid for a more trifling exertion of his muse; for having met at a dinner-party the late Mr. Strahan, the King’s printer, then suffering from gout and old age, though his intellectual faculties remained unimpaired, he sent him next morning the following *jeu d’esprit*:—

“Your lower limbs seem’d far from stout,
When last I saw you walk;
The cause I presently found out,
When you began to talk.

“The power that props the body’s length
In due proportion spread,
In you mounts upwards, and the strength
All settles in the head.”

This compliment proved so highly acceptable to the old gentleman, that he made an immediate codicil to his will, by which he bequeathed to the writer the sum of three hundred pounds! Since the days of Sannazarius it may be questioned whether any bard has been more liberally remunerated for an equal number of lines. Mr. Strahan, however, had other motives for his generosity, for he respected and loved the man, quite as much as he admired the poet. In ancient times, as we know from some of the classical letters, the rich frequently left handsome legacies to favourite authors with whom they were personally unacquainted—a fact to which the

present writer has great pleasure in referring, in the hope that so laudable a custom may be revived !

Among the earliest occurrences impressed on the mind of James Smith, he would relate that he had once been patted on the head by Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, as he stopped for a minute to converse with the narrator's father in Highgate churchyard. The imposition of this legal hand, however vividly retained in his memory, did not inspire him with any very ardent love, or indoctrinate him with the profounder lore of the profession for which he was destined. If he became a steady follower of the law, he did duty rather as a militiaman who has drawn the lot of service, than as a volunteer. From the first development of his faculties and tastes, it became manifest that they received their directing inspiration rather from *Thalia* than *Themis*. The passion which mastered and survived all others, retaining an undiminished attraction so long as his health allowed him to indulge it, was a fervent devotion to the drama. For many years he was never absent from either of the principal theatres on the first performance of a new piece ; and during the greater portion of his life he was generally to be found, when not otherwise engaged, in the boxes or the green-room, where, above all places, his elegant appearance, fascinating manners, and inexhaustible wit, secured him an eager and most flattering reception.

Nor was James Smith solely welcomed upon these recommendations ; for the actors and dramatic writers frequently applied to him for a comic song, a hit at the follies of the day, a jocose epilogue, or other assistance of the kind, which was always readily afforded, and scarcely ever failed to prove highly successful.

With most of the distinguished performers and dramatists he lived in habits of intimacy : many of them, knowing his excellent judgment, came to him for advice in their own art ; and so infallibly accurate was his memory in all the records of the theatre, that they would occasionally apply to him to fix the date of half-forgotten pieces, in which they themselves had figured.

Uniting a keen sense of the ridiculous with a quick perception of character, and a ready command of sparkling if not witty dialogue, he might have written admirable comedies, instead of hastily sketching disconnected scenes. In Mr. Mathews's entertainments he proved his skill as a caricaturist, and he would unquestionably have attained high station as a moral portrait painter, had he devoted his great powers to genuine comedy,—an attempt from which he could only have been deterred by his indolent disinclination to any sustained work, by a timid apprehension of failure in the most precarious of all literary undertakings, or by a foreboding that even his success as a dramatist might prove injurious to his professional prospects.

The reader who comes to the perusal of the following papers without making allowances for the temporary and superficial character required in periodical literature, will, perhaps, be hardly prepared for the occasional slenderness of their materials, and the predominant lightness of their tone. Not affecting any very deep reflection, when such sagacity would be only misapplied, they are fraught, nevertheless, with some practical wisdom; for there is a moral in their playful satire upon men and manners, and a benefit in their diffusion of harmless merriment. To be fairly estimated, they should be measured by their adaptation to a particular end, in conjunction with their intrinsic merits. Aiming to “shoot folly as it flies,” their writer selected a light shaft, well plumed with feathers, as the most likely to reach its object. His motto seems to have been “*Vive la bagatelle*,” and he seldom loses sight of it. But well-directed trifles are sometimes very efficient weapons. Many a battle has been won by the light troops, where their heavier brethren would have fought in vain; nor have the skirmishers and sharpshooters of literature done less signal service to the cause in which they have been engaged.

The most austere censor, and “the gravest aunt telling the saddest tale,” must equally admit the merit and utility of those playful effusions which, while they

may afford amusement to thousands, cannot injure the moral feelings of a single individual.

Such is the character of the following papers. A cheerful, pleasant, effervescing spirit animates them all ; and as we have already stated that they were composed for mere recreation, they could hardly be expected to exhibit the marks of study and deep reflection.

A mind of such great general powers as that of our subject, could doubtless have mastered any style with which it chose to grapple ; but neither his taste nor his feelings prompted him to exhibit his intellectual vigour in the deep waters of literature. Pouring themselves forth like a bright but shallow stream, his thoughts sparkled among the coloured pebbles they encountered, receiving and imparting a thousand evanescent hues as they pursued their glittering and sportive course. 'They who would dive into them for valuable pearls may be disappointed ; but such will not be the feeling of those who are content to admire the brilliant bubbles, or to snatch the many and the vari-coloured flowers that float upon their surface.

In the first of the letters entitled "Grimm's Ghost," James Smith proposed to imitate his celebrated original, and gave an outline of the plan upon which he intended to conduct his future papers ; but this pledge was never fully redeemed. He whose delight was in unbending, was little likely to intended in bending the stubborn bow of Ulysses. 'These papers are not, therefore, to be criticised as professed imitations. His own jest upon Mademoiselle MARS, that such was not her real appellation, but only a *nom de guerre*, may be applied to his ghostly assumption of the Baron's patronymic honours.

His poetry, in which the sportive sallies of his fancy and the coruscations of his wit seemed to find a more congenial element for their display, is ever terse, buoyant, racy, and delightful. Modulated by a fine, almost a fastidious ear, you seldom meet an inharmonious line, a forced inversion, or an inaccurate rhyme ; a merit the more difficult of attainment, because his proneness to

antithesis, brevity, and epigram, led him to sharpen almost every stanza into a point.

In double rhymes, the paucity of which in our language, presents an almost insurmountable barrier to their extensive use, he took such especial delight, that it may be questioned whether any writer can compete with him in the frequency and the happiness of their introduction. His facility, however, did not betray him into slovenliness; his "easy writing" was never "hard reading;" and if—because his works are not more bulky—he is finally to be enrolled among the "mob of gentlemen," who gleam

"Like twinkling stars the miscellanies o'er,"

he will undoubtedly shine with no inferior or unobscured light in that poetical galaxy.

When advancing years, long-continued attacks of gout, and compulsory seclusions from society, had somewhat tempered the playfulness of James Smith's fancy and the exuberance of his spirits, a deeper tone of sentiment and reflection becomes manifest in his writings. Not very long before his death he amused himself with making imitations of Shakspeare's Sonnets, of which two only are inserted as a specimen, the others not appearing to have been finally revised.

In the extracts from his letters, all written in the years immediately preceding his decease, will be found an extent of reading, an acuteness of observation, a depth of judgment, a combination, in short, of sprightliness, sound sense, and philosophy, hardly to have been anticipated by those who might have formed their opinion of his powers from the light vagaries of his youthful muse.

The reader will doubtless unite with the present writer in returning thanks to the parties who, by kindly permitting these extracts to be given to the world, have at once gratified the public, and thrown a new and most becoming light upon the subject of our memoir.

Not, however, to his literary claims alone, highly as they might be appreciated, was James Smith indebted

for the great and unvaried favour in which he had been ever held by an extensive circle of acquaintance, including many of his contemporaries the most distinguished for virtues, talents, and rank. "It was difficult," writes one who was intimately acquainted with him in his latter years, "to pass an evening in his company without feeling in better humour with the world; such was the influence of his inexhaustible fund of amusement and information, his lightness, liveliness, and good sense. No man ever excelled him in starting a pleasant topic of conversation, and sustaining it; nor was it well possible for a party of moderate dimensions, when he was of it, to be dull. The droll anecdote, the apt illustration, the shrewd remark, a trait of humour from Fielding, a scrap of a song from the Beggar's Opera, a knock-down retort of Johnson's, a couplet from Pope or Dryden,—all seemed to come as they were wanted; and as he was always just as ready to listen as to talk, they acted, each in turn, as a sort of challenge to the company to bring forth their budgets, and contribute towards the feast. As he disliked argument, and never lost his temper, or willingly gave offence, it would have been no easy matter for others to lose theirs, or to offend him."

In all the requisites for social eminence he was, indeed, transcendent. To a dignified and manly figure, cast in a mould of perfect symmetry, he united in his prime of life, much beauty and animation of countenance, singularly fascinating manners, the charm of a comic vocalist, an all-retaining memory, an ever-flowing stream of entertaining talk that sparkled and cheered as if it were colloquial champagne, and a merry laugh that would extort a sympathising echo from the most phlegmatic hearer.

His was not the sly, sneering, sarcastic humour that finds most pleasure in the *bon-mot* that gives the greatest pain to others; nor was it of that dry, quiet character which gives zest to a joke by the apparent unconsciousness of its author. His good sayings were heightened by his cordial good-nature; by the beaming smile, the twinkling eye, and the frank hearty cachinnation that showed his enjoyment of them.

Adhering to the dictum that we should always pay attention to our dress—in youth that we may please, in age that we may not displease—he was ever most scrupulous in this respect; not neglecting any aid, at any period, that might set off his great personal recommendations to the best advantage.

As an additional proof that he deserved the highest character to which a man can aspire—that of a thorough gentleman—let it be recorded that in his earlier days, when grossness of language was by no means uncommon, even in the best convivial society, he never availed himself of his privilege as a merry wag, or as a comic singer, to pander to the vicious taste either of the great or little vulgar. The writings of his whole life, difficult as others have found it to be always jocose without occasionally lapsing into indelicacy, being equally free from taint or reproach. In fact he left not one single line “which dying he would wish to blot.”

A confirmed metropolitan in all his tastes and habits, he would often quaintly observe that London was the best place in summer, and the only place in winter; or quote Dr. Johnson’s dogma—“Sir, the man that is tired of London is tired of existence.” At other times he would express his perfect concurrence with Dr. Moseley’s assertion, that in the country one is always maddened with the noise of nothing; or laughingly quote the Duke of Queensberry’s rejoinder on being told, one sultry day in September, that London was exceedingly empty—“Yes, but it’s fuller than the country.”

He would not, perhaps, have gone quite so far as his old friend Jekyll, who used to say, that “if compelled to live in the country, he would have the approach to his house paved like the streets of London, and hire a hackney-coach to drive up and down all day long;” but he would relate with great glee a story showing the general conviction of his dislike to ruralities. He was sitting in the library, at a country-house, when a gentleman, informing him that the family were all out, proposed a quiet stroll into the pleasure grounds. “Stroll! why, ’t you see my gouty shoe?”—“Yes, but what then?

You don't really mean to say that you have got the gout. I thought you had only put on that shoe to avoid being shown over the improvements."

Notwithstanding his rooted objection to "grinding the gravel," as he termed an excursion into the country, he could overcome this repugnance where there were sufficient talents and attractions to repay him for the exertion. For many consecutive summers he even travelled so far as Yorkshire, to make long visits to the late Earl of Mulgrave, who honoured him with his especial friendship, and whose high intellectual and social powers were duly appreciated by his visitant. It was upon one of these excursions that he purchased his favourite gray mare, which carried him, without a stumble, until both were worn out together, when he gave unwilling orders, shortly before his death, that she should be shot. At the Deepdene also, at Mr. Croker's, at Moulsey, at Lord Abinger's, at Abinger Hall, and other country abodes, where he was sure of meeting enlightened and congenial society, he was glad to become an occasional guest, in spite of his devotion to London.

In his latest years, when gout had rendered him a confirmed cripple, and condemned him to increasing hours of solitude; when, being disabled from amusing gay circles of comparative strangers, he had learned the inappreciable value of a real friendship; he was so fortunate as to form the acquaintance of the Rev. Mr. Torre Holme and his wife, an acquaintance which quickly ripened into the closest intimacy.

The lady's name will be familiar to the reader, as one of the most admired contributors to our periodicals; a congeniality of tastes and pursuits which rendered her society peculiarly delightful to the subject of this memoir.

To Shere, near Guilford, the abode of these accomplished and cherished associates, he now became a frequent visitant, gratifying himself, while he won the admiration of his kind hosts; and when his accumulating infirmities pressed so grievously upon him as to confine him to his own room in London, he beguiled

his lonely sufferings by editing the letters from which we have given extracts, and which afford such an interesting insight into the writer's mind and feelings, as he was gradually sinking under his malady.

How highly he was estimated by other and not less enlightened associates whom he encountered at Shere, will be manifested by the following admirable letter, of which the writer, the Rev. George J. Handford, has kindly permitted the publication:—

“ Shere, May 29th, 1840.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ Mrs. Holne expressed a wish, some time ago, that I would put down on paper what little I remembered of your late lamented brother's *table-talk*. I had the good fortune to be much in his company during his latter visits to Shere, and received many marks of kindness and friendship from him. I felt, therefore, a real though melancholy pleasure in undertaking to rescue from oblivion some few of those brilliant conceits which ‘ were wont to set the table in a roar,’ and the still more valuable observations of his calmer and sadder moments.

“ Lady Blessington has well remarked, ‘ If James Smith had not been a *witty man*, he must have been a *great man*.’ When I knew him, acute suffering had begun to cast a softening shade over his character; and the judicious advice, the enlightened criticism, the comprehensive philosophy, which then formed the staple of his discourse, won from all the homage which some would have denied to his wit, and preserved the dignity of the educated gentleman from merging in the professional gaiety of the jester. ‘ *Res est sacra, miser;*’ and we used to look almost with veneration on the poet, sinking under a disease which left him scarcely a moment free from pain, and yet firmly repressing the slightest indication of what he suffered; sitting for hours under his favourite birch tree on the sunny lawn, and dwelling with delight on the calm loveliness of a landscape, not often equalled even in this country, or, as he himself

was used to express it, not only umbrageous itself, ‘but casting all other places into the shade.’ Here he used to sit, the centre of a chosen circle—a living commentary on the literature of his country—recalling the past from the treasures of what I must be permitted to call a *gigantic memory*, and illustrating the present with the happiest union of taste, judgment, and good-humour. Shakspeare and his contemporaries, Cowley and his analytical school, Waller and the courtier-poets of Charles’s reign; ‘Spectators,’ ‘Tatlers,’ ‘Guardians,’ ‘Rambles;’—all who did anything for posterity in the time of Anne and the Georges—passed in succession before our eyes, as if summoned by the wand of Gulliver’s potent friend, each paying the tribute of some happy quotation, and confirming, *by the authority of consecutive pages* when necessary, the argument or criticism of the hour. And then came the sparkling jest, when least expected. We had forgotten, perhaps, ‘the author of Rejected Addresses,’ in the poet and philosopher before us; but he never permitted this disloyalty to his supremacy as ‘joker general.’ He was justly proud of showing that ‘motley’ was not his ‘*only* wear;’ but his bauble was always within reach, and the suddenness with which he assumed it—sometimes in the midst of the gravest argument—however we might regret the interruption, compelled us to admire his versatility.

“Some of these bright sayings I had *rashly* promised to record. *We* laugh at the time, and I thought, of course, that others might laugh too; but I had forgotten how much depends on the manner and the occasion. On taxing my memory for a reproduction of these scenes, I am vexed to find how little I can recall, and, of that little, how much less is calculated to make on others the impression it made on me. The brilliancy of your brother’s conversation was something to *see*, as well as to *hear*. We want now the laughing eye, the happy voice, the mouth that seemed the very dwelling-place of eloquent smiles; we want, too, the admiring circle, determined to be pleased, and exciting to fresh efforts by the kind

approval of the present. The occasion, too, which called forth many of his jokes, is not always worth detailing; and yet, without a full, and, perhaps, tedious preamble, the wit is not apparent. To those who knew James Smith, his conversation was a rich and glorious stream, now flowing through clear depths, now sparkling with a graceful ripple. But even they, alas! could not arrest the current: it has reached the dark ocean 'where thoughts perish,' and has no reflux in this world. How can we hope, then, to recall its beauty to the eye of the stranger? The attempt would be vain, at least in my hands.

‘ Like the bubble on the fountain,
It is gone, and for ever.’

“ The moderation of his character was, perhaps, most apparent on the usually exciting subject of politics. He professed, I believe, moderately conservative opinions, but on no occasion could we betray him into anything like a positive declaration in company. ‘ My political opinions,’ he once said, ‘ are those of the lady who sits next to me, and as the fair sex are generally ‘ perplexed, like monarchs, with the fear of change,’ I constantly find myself conservative.’

“ ‘ Mr. Smith, you *look* like a conservative,’ said a young man across the table, thinking to pay him a compliment. ‘ Certainly, sir,’ was the prompt reply; ‘ my *crutches* remind me that I am no member of *the movement party*.’

“ But he was really liberal in the best sense of the word. In politics, religion, and literature, his great object was concord; and he used to say of the parties which agitate society, as the political footman in the Vicar of Wakefield said of the rival newspapers,— ‘ They may hate each other, but I love them all.’*

* * * * *

“ If the above imperfect reminiscences are of any

veral of his bon-mots are here omitted, as they occur
re.—(Ed.)

value to you for the purpose of interweaving with the forthcoming memoirs, I shall be much gratified, and shall then have only to regret that they are not more numerous and more ably chronicled.

“ I am, dear Sir,
“ Very faithfully yours,
“ GEORGE J. HANDFORD.”

In the wide circle of his London acquaintance, one of the houses at which he most delighted to visit was that of Lady Blessington, whose conversational powers he highly admired, and to whose *Book of Beauty* he became a contributor. To this lady he was in the habit of sending occasional epigrams, and complimentary or punning notes. At Lord Harrington's also he was a frequent guest, ever gratified by a cordiality of reception and refinement of manners, which constitute the highest charm of social intercourse.

He liked to mingle with persons of celebrity, and at these houses his wish was seldom ungratified. Among his personal friends, he had the highest regard for Count d'Orsay, not only adducing him as a specimen of a perfect gentleman, but often declaring that in the delightful union of gaiety and good sense he was absolutely unrivalled.

When not otherwise engaged, he would take his plain dinner at the Athenæum, the Union, or the Garrick Club, always restricting himself to a half-pint of sherry, from the fear of his old enemy the gout. The late Sir William Aylet, a grumbling member of the Union, and a two-bottle man, observing him to be thus frugally furnished, eyed his cruet with contempt, and exclaimed, “ So, I see *you* have got one of these cursed life-preservers.”

After this description of his general mode of life, it will be hardly necessary to state that he was a bachelor; and to those who knew him, it will be equally needless to add, that his celibacy proceeded rather from too discursive than too limited an admiration of the sex. To the latest hour of his life he exhibited a marked predilec-

tion for their society, giving a natural preference to the young, the intelligent, and the musical ; and never concealing his dislike of a dinner party composed exclusively of males. It will be seen that even in the many hours of solitude and sickness that threw a shade over the closing scenes of his life, he does not appear ever to have regretted his bachelorship.

Although few persons had been more constantly exposed to the temptation of convivial parties, James Smith, at every period, was a strictly temperate man ; an abstemiousness which could not, however, ward off the attacks of gout. These began to assail him in middle life, increasing in their frequency and severity, until, gradually losing the use and the very form of his limbs, he sank at times into a state of utter and helpless decrepitude, which he bore with an undeviating and unexampled patience. To him, nevertheless, it must have been peculiarly trying, for he held it a humiliation to be ill ; and although he did not go quite so far as Charles Lamb, who frankly confessed that he hated sick people, he had always recoiled from those who talked of their ailments or sorrows ; and he scorned to solicit the sympathy which he had never bestowed. His was not the one-sided equanimity, which, while it bears the sorrows and the pangs of others with perfect philosophy, is discomposed at the smallest trials of self. No ; if he displayed but little tenderness in the former case, he was equally stoical in the latter. Never complaining, never making the most distant allusion to his own sufferings, however acute, and invariably checking all reference to the subject in his visitants,—he refused to see company altogether, when he found their presence insupportable, or resolutely conquered his malady, and threw off the invalid, if they were admitted. So fine and uniform was his temper, proceeding, perhaps, in some degree, from the absence of any very keen sensibility, that it is hardly known to have been ever seriously ruffled.

In the spring of 1830, a violent attack of influenza, aggravated by a severe access of gout, completely degraded his whole system, prostrated his spirits for the

rst time, and condemned him to a five months' confinement. Recovering from this alarming state by the skill and attention of his friend Dr. Paris, he accepted an invitation from the writer to pass some time with him at Tonbridge Wells. Here, although he was still a lamentable cripple, he made an extraordinary rally, regaining an almost youthful buoyancy of mind, resuming with alacrity the merry meetings of former times, indulging in his pleasant modes of jest and anecdote, or singing with his nieces almost from morning to night.

We had flattered ourselves, on his leaving us, that he was restored to his usual state, and that we might look forward to future interviews not less delightful to all parties : but, alas ! these fond hopes were destined never to be realized ! Towards the close of the year he experienced a relapse, under which he sank so rapidly that his recovery was hardly to be expected even by the most sanguine.

His nearest relations pressed to be admitted into the house, that they might nurse and solace him, so far as his state would allow : but he adhered inflexibly to the rule he had laid down, and declined all assistance, except from the faithful housekeeper who had been upwards of twenty-five years in his service.

His last illness was not of long continuance nor was it attended with suffering, either mental or corporeal. To death itself he had ever expressed a perfect indifference, though he was anxious to be spared a painful or protracted exit ; a wish in which he was fortunately gratified. He died in his house in Craven Street, with all the calmness of a philosopher, on the 24th December, 1839, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, and was buried under the vaults of St. Martin's church.

L I N E S

ON THE

DEATH OF JAMES SMITH, ESQ.

BY A LADY.

THE tomb has closed o'er him who once was the light
Of each circle where talent and temper are loved ;
Whose varied acquirements as solid as bright
More fondly we love, when for ever removed.

His memory's wide speaking compass could span,
Like the rainbow's bright arch, the horizon of mind.
O'er the billows of Time reminiscent it ran,
And the stores of the past to his grasp were resigned.

The coldness of form and the shadows of gloom
Were chased by the beams of his fancy's light play ;
His voice sent the spirit of mirth round the room,
And his laugh drove the demon of dulness away.

How oft, when his presence our meetings have cheered,
Have the young and ingenuous thronged round his seat,
To share in the converse his kindness endeared,
(Sure test of *His* worth whom such suffrages greet.)

No maxim has guided—no learning directs,
The Bee on her task among summer's gay bowers ;
From instinct alone she unerring selects
The sweetest and best for her bouquet of flowers :

So, by nature's mysterious alchemy led,
The young, yet unsnared in the mazes of art,
Can detect the pure ore wheresoe'er it lies hid,
And a smile gives them light to decipher the heart !

Content to be loved where he might have been feared,
The darts of his satire were playfully thrown,
No smoke-wreath of malice or rancour appeared,
O'er the flame of a wit that so lambently shone.

Distrust and suspicion, the bitterest fruit
Of the dark tree of knowledge, to him were unknown ;
His friends shared his joys—but his sorrows were mute,
And his wrongs were resented by silence alone.

His temper's mild sunshine no suffering could cloud,
The dark days of sickness—the night-watch of pain,
And how often those hours were his lot, the gay crowd
Little knew, when they basked in his presence again.

But, alas ! he is gone—and the echoes of mirth
Are silent where most he was valued and known ;
The halls of the noble lament him—the hearth
Domestic—retains but his memory alone.

By the sorrows of friends—by the general voice
Regretted and loved, O let this be our pride,
While many will mourn him, not one will rejoice,
In charity living—in peace he has died.

C. D

LETTERS.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

TO

MRS. TORRE HOLME.

“ Saturday, 26th August.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

The interest that I take in the welfare of you and yours, has caused me to receive the communication in your last letter with sincere pleasure.* The philosophical book on the mind by Combe I have sent to Lady —, but will bring it you on Friday se’nnight, the 6th of September. Turn minutes to seconds, as some lyric poet requests of Time, that the period may sooner arrive. I dined yesterday at — House, where the Countess Guiccioli is on a visit; she is much improved in her English. When we rejoined the ladies in the drawing-room, coffee was introduced, and several little tottering daddy-long-legs tables were set out, whereon to deposit our cups. I and Madam G. had a table between us. I then ventured to touch upon Lord Byron. The subject evidently interested her. I repeated several

* Of her son having passed a good examination.

passages from his "Childe Harold," with which she seemed quite familiar. She then asked me to give her some of my imitations of him from the "Rejected Addresses." These she did not seem quite so well to comprehend. I told her all I knew of him before he went abroad, to which, like Desdemona, "she did seriously incline." Bysshe Shelley she denominates a good man. Leigh Hunt's name she pronounced *Leg Honte*. With tears in her eyes, she then descanted upon the merits and failings of the departed. When any sudden pause took place in the conversation at the other tables, she, evidently not wishing to be overheard, said, "Bai an bai," (by-and-bye,) and when the general buzz recommenced, she resumed the thread of her narration. Shelley "disliked his Don Juan," said I, "and begged him to leave it off, calling it a Grub Street poem." "A what?—what you mean by Grub Street?" I then explained to her the locality of that venerable haunt of the Muses, in the days of Pope and Swift, by a quotation from myself:—

"A spot near Cripplegate extends,
Grub street 'tis called, the modern Pindus,
Where (but that bards are never friends)
Bards might shake hands from adverse windows."

"When he dined with me," the Countess continued, "he ate no meat. Still haunted by a dread of growing fat, he very much injured his own health; yet his figure, notwithstanding, grew larger. Oh! he was very handsome! Beautiful eyes and eyelashes!—and such a spiritual expression of countenance!—I had occasion to go to Ravenna upon some family business. We settled that he should not accompany me. At that time several people were plaguing him to go to Greece. Ah, he said, in his sportive manner, 'Let fourteen captains come and ask me to go, and go I will.' Well, fourteen captains came to him, and said, 'Here we are, will you now go?' He was ashamed to say he had only been joking, (you know how fond he was of saying things in that light, joking

sort of a way,) so it ended in his undertaking to go. He said to me, 'While you are at Ravenna, I will go to Greece, and we shall meet again when we both return.' God, however, he dispose of it otherwise. He was not well when he set out. In Greece they wanted to bleed him; he would not be bled, and so he die!" The Countess paused, evidently much affected. I said nothing for a minute or two, and then observed, that I had read and heard much upon the subject she had been discussing, but that I did not know how she and Lord Byron first became acquainted. She looked at me a moment, as if wondering at my audacity, and then said, with a good-humoured smile, "Well, I will tell you. I was one day"—But here the drawing-room door opened, and some Frenchman with a foreign order was announced. The lady repeated her "Bai an bai" sotto voce, but, unfortunately, that bai an bai never arrived. The foreigner, unluckily, knew the Countess; he, therefore, planted himself in a chair behind her, and held her over and anon in a commonplace kind of conversation during the remainder of the evening.

Count d'Orsay set me down in Craven Street. "What was all that Madame Guiccioli was saying to you just now?" he inquired. "She was telling me her apartments are in the Rue de Rivoli, and that if I visited the French capital, she hoped I would not forget her address." "What! it took her all that time to say that! Ah, Smeeth, you old humbug! that won't do."

Believe me to remain,

Sincerely yours,

JAMES SMITH.

27. Craven Street,
Saturday, 10th February.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

* * * * *

I have for some time past felt a strange longing to visit
L. "Vedi Napoli, e poi mori," is the passionate

exclamation of the Italians. It must be such a delicate climate : not that I have the slightest chance of ever going thither ; and yet the idea haunts me.

Charles Kean, they tell me at the Garrick, is a clever, but not a great actor ; but you don't care about theatricals. The Opera Buffa, they tell me, is so-so ; but you don't care about music. Well, then, as you do care about me, I have the satisfaction to tell you that I am convalescing apace. I move upon two crutch-canes like Asmodeus, but lacking a considerable portion of his agility. Neither, like him, can I unroof the houses to see what is passing within ; neither would I if I could. Curiosity about other people's affairs is not one of my staple commodities.

Some of the wags last night at the Garrick were making charades—I puzzled them with the following :—
“ An old post, a swing, and a daub of a picture, make a bad sign.” They all gave it up ; whereupon I told them it was a truism—those materials *do* make a bad sign.

I dined yesterday at Murray's. Moore was very pleasant, although not in good health. He said his forte was music, and that he was no poet apart from that sensation. He talked of the different manner in which George the Fourth was received in Edinburgh and in Dublin, contrasting the dignity of the former with the servility of the latter ; and he said, “ 'The contrast makes me blush for my countrymen.' ” After all, the two modes of reception are merely constitutional. The Scotch are naturally sedate, and the Irish extravagant : Lockhart says the last are all mad, more or less.

You will see in the Examiner an extract from a speech delivered by my brother Horace at a meeting at Brighton, in favour of vote by ballot. He had better abstain from politics altogether ; it is his business as an author to please all parties.

The gout still hangs about my left foot ; notwithstanding which, I am to dine to-day with Dr. Paris, the headquarters of Hygeia. Moore gave us an account of his meeting some few years ago the Duchess of Kent and

the Princess Victoria in a country-house, and singing duets and trios with them. 'The Queen, he says, had then a small thin voice, but was a very good musician, her mother an excellent one. Best remembrances to your husband.

Believe me to remain sincerely yours,
JAMES SMITH.

I heard it once debated in a company of ladies, whether any young lady whose affections were not pre-occupied, would refuse the hand of the Duke of Devonshire in marriage. They all agreed that no such woman existed. 'This, I own, surprised me; what is your opinion upon the subject? and what do you think of "The Art of being Happy?"' 'There are some sensible rules in the book, but it has rather too great a tendency to "Quietism." Remember Lord Erskine's epigram:—

"He never knew 'pleasure,' who never knew *pain*."

27, Craven Street,
Monday, 16th Oct.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

With respect to the invitation you mention, I will frankly avow that I do not wish to travel so many miles, merely to dine with any old lady. I happen to be greatly pleased with the society of Mr. and Mrs. Holme, and I am fond of their children. Two or three days visit in that quarter is at all times desirable, and I have no objection to devote one of them to a visit in their company; but as to a solo upon any old lady's salt-box, that is *toute autre chose*. Explain this to Holme, and let him illuminate the party in question.

27, Craven Street,
Sunday, 18th March.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

If you were a singer, you would remember (and as a

poet you probably may) a song entitled "Sally in our Alley," the singer of which thus expresses himself:—

"Of all the days that's in the week,
I dearly love but one day;
And that's the day that comes between
The Saturday and Monday."

I am disposed to "say ditto to Mr. Burke." Not that I employ it, like the aforesaid vocalist, in "walking abroad with Sally." My limbs, unfortunately, are not so disposable. It is to me more literally a day of rest. Let me enlighten you as to my general disposal of it. I breakfast at nine. With a mind undisturbed by matters of business, I then write to you or to some editor, and then read till three o'clock. I then walk to the Union Club, read the journals, hear Lord John Russell deified or diabolized, (that word is not a bad coinage,) do the same with Sir Robert Peel or the Duke of Wellington, and then join a knot of conversationists by the fire till six o'clock, consisting of merchants, lawyers, members of parliament, and gentlemen at large. We then and there discuss the three per cent. consols, (some of us preferring Dutch two and a half per cents.) and speculate upon the probable size, shape, and cost of the intended New Royal Exchange. If Lady Harrington happen to drive past our bow window, we compare her equipage to that of the Algerine ambassador; and when politics happen to be discussed, rally Whigs, Radicals, and Conservatives, alternately, but never seriously; such subjects having a tendency to create acrimony. At six o'clock the room begins to be deserted, wherefore I adjourn to the dining-room, and gravely looking over the bill of fare, exclaim to the waiter, "Haunch of mutton and apple tart!" Those viands despatched with no accompanying liquid save water, I mount upward to the library; take a book and my seat in an arm-chair, and read till nine; then call for a cup of coffee and a biscuit, resume my book till eleven, afterwards return home to bed. If I have any book here which particularly excites

my attention, I place my lamp upon a table by my bedside, and read in bed until twelve. No danger of ignition, my lamp being quite safe, and my curtains moresen. "Thus ends this strange eventful history." Should Sir Andrew Agnew, or any other evangelical successor in St. Stephen's Chapel, (for he is no longer a senator,) succeed in passing a Sunday Bill to abolish public carriages, it would, you see from the above detail, not affect me. My only deviation from this even tenor is an occasional family dinner at my friend Heath's in Russell Square, or at Dr. Paris's in Dover Street.

27, Craven Street,
Sunday, 24th December.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

Great with *jump* (not corporally when subject to gout, but) mentally. Your husband's critique as to time of execution occurred to me on reading Jane Lomax. But there is another legal objection. Lomax was, if I recollect right, appointed executor under the will. He must in that capacity have possessed the *probate*, and could not want a copy. Again, I have my doubts whether Lomax's crime was capital. It did not consist in forging the testator's handwriting, but in putting before him a false or substituted will for his signature; a fraud punishable, perhaps, with transportation, but not a forgery. The interest at the close would have been much better worked up by a trial at law, or an indictment at the Old Bailey—Lomax in the dock, trembling as the proofs accumulated, and urged "to flare up" by his indignant helpmate. The will might have been set aside, and the man from abroad, (I forget his name,) might have married the virtuous daughter. The wind-up with two old maids I agree with you in considering anti-climax. People who write works of fiction are not bound to know the law, but in forming their catastrophes they should apply to those who do. I could have helped my brother

is as pretty a law scene as you shall see on a summer's day.

I dined yesterday with E. L. Bulwer, at his new residence, in Charles-street, Berkely-square, a splendidly and classically fitted-up mansion. One of the drawing-rooms is a fac-simile of a chamber which our host visited at Pompeii,—vases, candelabra, chairs, tables, to correspond. He lighted a perfumed pastille modelled from Mount Vesuvius. As soon as the cone of the mountain began to blaze, I fancied myself an inhabitant of the devoted city; and, as Pliny the Elder, thus addressed Bulwer, my supposed nephew:—"Our fate is accomplished, nephew. Hand me yonder volume;—I shall die as a student in my vocation. Do you then hasten to take refuge on board the fleet at Misenum. Yonder cloud of hot ashes chides thy longer delay. Feel no alarm for me—I shall live in story. The author of Pelham will rescue my name from oblivion." Pliny the Younger made me a low bow.

I perceive by the newspapers that Madame Vestris is about to exhibit Puss in Boots at Christmas, and that all the other theatres adopt nursery tales as vehicles for their pantomines. These things must be totally unintelligible to the present philosophical race of infants. I should suggest pieces like the following:—"Population, or Harlequin Martineau." "My Stars, or Harlequin Herschell." "Pons Asinorum, or Harlequin Triangle." Harlequin Tedious, or

Yours sincerely,
JAMES SMITH.

19th March.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

Should the greatest of calamities befall you,—the loss of one of your children, (which Heaven avert,) I would, at the summons of you or your husband, visit you in your affliction; not to assuage your grief, (a vain effort,)

but to alleviate by partaking of it. Such would have been my conduct, had I known you when deprived of Florence. I know that the hackneyed topics of consolation, viz., "Time only can alleviate,—impious to murmur,—gone to a better place," &c. only add fuel to the fire. My course would be the direct reverse. I should dwell with melancholy pleasure on the merits of the departed, and agree with you that the affair was altogether beyond consolation.

"As skilful surgeons cut beyond the wound,
To make the cure complete."

What wonders time achieves! There was a period when you would have received as an insult an intimation that you could ever, after that bereavement, feel a moment of happiness; and notwithstanding our experience of his emollient powers, we continue to think that if certain calamities should now befall us, we should never more taste of felicity. Charles Fox was said to be a man of expanded benevolence. His love, like gold beaten by the limner, covered a large number, and thus clothed no individual cordially. Which of the extremes is best?—that adopted by him, or the concentration of our affections upon one? I should say the latter, but it is a fearful experiment. He who acts thus, imitates the Richard in the play—or rather like the hero of Scott's Waverley, (I forget his name,) of whose rebellion the author says, "he has played a fearful game—a coronet or a coffin—he has lost the throw, and cannot now unthrow the stake." I was going to remind you of Pope and Martha Blount; "he was too old to transfer his affections—he could only have shrunk into himself." But this I think I have quoted to you before.

"And while papa said, 'Phoo, she may;'
Mamma said, 'No, she sha'n't.'"

Several women, who were girls when the Rejected Addresses came out, have assured me that they considered

he above two lines (exhibiting, as they do, a discord between parents) as piquant. Excitement I take to be the solution of the feeling that makes young men tolerate executions, and servant maids tragedies. You and I prefer pleasant dinner-parties, and Vaudevilles at the Olympic. Not that I mean to put you, a young woman, upon a secular par with me, an elderly gentleman. But you, I think, are older in mind than in body, and I younger,—whereby we approach to a “Mezzo termini” of assimilation. We are enjoined, upon grave authority, to “put off the old man.” I should be happy to do so if I could. At present I am flying in the face of Scripture, and putting it on. “Get thee Medea’s kettle, and be boiled anew,” as Valentine says, in Congreve’s “Love for Love.” The enchantress so acted with old Æson, the father of Jason, who thereupon

“Shook forty winters from his wondering head,”

as I say in my translation from Ovid. Only fancy me so metamorphosed, and coming to visit you in the “bloom of youth !” You would say, “Ah ! I knew your father ! you are very like him ; yonder hangs his portrait ; I had a great regard for him. All his letters to me, and he wrote many, were subscribed,

My dear Mrs. Holme,

Yours with great esteem,

JAMES SMITH.

27, Craven-street,
Friday, 2d June.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

Somebody says, in Ovid’s epistles,

“Nil mihi rescribas, attamen ipse veni.”

And so I would, if I had nothing to consult but my own inclinations. I have, however, sent you my engraved

substitute, together with my companion, L. E. L., taking it for granted that you will like to know something of my "birth, parentage, and education." You are already apprised of my "life, character, and behaviour;" so (as you have already hung me up) here ends my last dying speech and confession.

The people of Bath surpass the Athenian sage. He merely chewed the pebbles, but, according to the *Morning Herald*, "At Bath the Victoria Column is in every body's mouth."

I have a slight attack of the lumbago, owing, I apprehend, to my venturing out yesterday in a pair of white trousers. The proverb says there is no putting old heads upon young shoulders. I ought to have considered that the adage is equally cogent in its reverse sense. I am now doing penance in double-milled kerseymere. How is ——'s asthma? Did I not see an account in the newspaper of the death of his brother at Bath? Well!

We all in one pinnacle are rowing,
The haven we seek is the grave;
The Stygian waters are flowing,
Alike for the monarch and slave.

Three ladies (I give it on newspaper authority) appeared at court in dress of *tulle illusion*. They must have been the three graces of Chantrey, whom you may have seen holding up a candelabrum. These things would not have been tolerated by good Queen Charlotte!

Yours very truly.

27, Craven Street,
Monday, 11th December.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

At the Union Club last night, I read the *Examiner* of that day, in which I found such honourable mention of you, that I found it requisite and necessary, as well for your body as your soul, that you should be furnished with that paper. It accordingly proceeds to you by this

evening's post. To have both of your poems extracted by the critics, the one in the *Literary Gazette*, and the other in the *Examiner*, is a tolerably good start on the corso of Parnassus. This reminds me of your mode of pronouncing wound (woond); I still contend for a broader intonation. So in Windsor Forest,

“ ————— Feels the deadly wound,
Flutters in death, and trails along the ground.

So in Pope's Homer,

“ Around he deals the deadly wound.”

So in myself, in the next *New Monthly*,

“ Here, fell destroyer, many a wound
The woodman's axe hath dealt around.”

According to your reading, the only rhyme to it is swooned and tuned,—attributes more adapted to a lady and her lute than to a warrior. Well! you are convinced? if so, let me know.

Do you remember sending me the first part of a poem, (I should rather say presenting it to me,) at our *déjeuner*, at Mrs. Gulston's at Clandon, in a triangle shape? I wish you would go on with it, and let me have the continuation. I have sent to the *New Monthly* my “Chigwell Revisited.” It is my favourite metre (that of your Hindoo girl). I will give you a specimen of my forthcoming ditty:—

Grant me the happier lot of him,
Elate in hope, alert in limb,
Who hurls Bellona's jav'lin!
Fame's laurel ardent to entwine,
Dares death upon the counter mine,
And meets him on the rav'lin!

I cannot give up my "*Wormwood* at the bottom," notwithstanding the superior flavour of your cup. You are not yet arrived at the "midway a palatable drink." You have, it is true, passed the "nectar at the brink," but have contrived to carry that immortal liquid with you.

What think you of the following specimen of *ingenious bigotry*?

A Calvinistic lady, whose brother had turned Unitarian, was reminded that he notwithstanding was a good man. "That very circumstance," said the sister, "proves that he is a doomed man. The devil is so sure of him for his want of faith, that he does not take the trouble to corrupt his morals." I mean to introduce this anecdote into my intended extempore sermon.†

J. S.

The philosopher Gibbon (how I ramble!) does not go the length of my *Wormwood*. He expresses himself as follows:—"The present is a fleeting moment, the past is no more, and our prospect of futurity is dark and doubtful. I shall soon enter into the period which, as the most agreeable of his long life, was selected by the judgment and experience of the sage Fontenelle. I am far more inclined to embrace than to dispute this comfortable doctrine. I will not suppose any premature decay of the mind or body: but I must reluctantly observe, that two causes, the abbreviation of time and the

* Alluding to his Poem on Chigwell.

"Life's cup is nectar at the brink,
Midway a palatable drink,
And wormwood at the bottom."—*Ed.*

† Alluding to his having once said it was not difficult to preach extempore, upon which I gave him a text, and, wishing a difficult one, chose the injunction of Scripture to make friends of the mammon of unrighteousness. On this subject Mr. Smith spoke so well, with perfect gravity explaining the real meaning of the parable, that we consider it one of the greatest proofs of talent and facility of composition that he had ever given us.—*Note by Mrs. Holme.*

failure of hope, will always tinge with a browner shade the evening of life." Adieu.

Very sincerely yours,
JAMES SMITH.

27, Craven Street,
Tuesday, 5th December.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

My notion of Hentlesham Hall is a large old red brick house with stone pilasters, and wings, with steps up to the central entrance. Are there any old family pictures? I love to look at things of that sort. A handsome young woman in blue velvet by Sir Peter Lely, with her right hand on the head of a favourite lap-dog. Then the object of love and admiration, and now—where?

Reflections upon this lead us to two opposite conclusions, according as our temper and habits operate. The grave join the monks of La Trappe, and the gay rush into the ball-rooms and taverns; so that the certainty of death proves nothing.

“O blindness to the future kindly given!”

I too (insignificant I) shall live upon canvass in the studio of Lonsdale the painter in Berners street, (No. 6.) On the death of the painter, his goods and chattels will come to the hammer,* and a century hence I may be seen in a broker's shop in Frith Street, Soho, peeping out amid a motley assemblage of old iron, ragged sofas, and damaged crockery ware! So much for human glory! Johnson says of Cowley, that he was, in his day, a poet of unrivalled celebrity. His epitaph in Westminster Abbey says the same:

“Aurea dum volitant late tua scripta per orbem.”

“While round the world your golden writings fly.”

* This prediction was verified. He purchased the portrait, and presented it to his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Holme.—*Ed.*

But even a century ago Pope says, "Who now reads Cowley?" Fancy some lady, in the year 1837, taking up, in an antique library, "Poems by Mrs. Holme," and wondering who and what sort of a person she was.

When I depart this wicked world, this vale of tears, (for tears reverently read smiles,) I shall leave behind me,—1st, my book; 2d, my portrait by Lonsdale; 3d, the engraving thereof; 4th, the cameo. Come—this is no bad immortality as times go. You, above forty years hence, will be about embarking on the same Stygian voyage, and will leave behind you,—1st, your poems; 2d, your portrait. This alone will not do; we must have a likeness of you as you now are, done by some good English artist. Suppose we prefix you to your poems, as Murray has served my brother Horace and me.

27, Craven Street,
Monday, 30th Sept. 1839.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

I fear you and yours must have found me but a dull companion during my last visit. My left knee was painful, and when a man is in pain, (or a woman, witness your MS. play,) he is scarcely a responsible person. It was fortunate for you that I left you on Saturday. I was so much worse yesterday as not to be removable; so you would have had me to nurse—a pretty encumbrance! Added to this, I was labouring under a misunderstanding with one of your sex, for whom I entertain the highest esteem. All yesterday I was nursing my resentment to keep it warm. A letter received from that lady this morning has set all matters right.

In addition to gout, I labour under a languor and depression which produces frequent slumbers in the day-time. All this confines me to my house, and my books and pen.

I shall get the magazines in a day or two, and when I send them, will return the sonnets, and your dissertation

on Coquetry, which does you great credit. The French coquette, as you depict her, is certainly not a coquette in the English acceptation of the term: her object being to make herself generally agreeable. An English coquette is not content with this, but lays herself out for particular conquest; she does not rest upon her laurels, but aims to dazzle some other individual, leaving her recent conquest engulfed in the mire, with nothing but an ignis fatuus to help him out of it. All this sport to her and death to others is quite consistent with virtue, but, according to my antiquated notions, rather at variance with honesty. Only reverse the case, and look at a man thus acting towards your sex; can anything be more odious? This reminds me of an imitation of Horace's Ode addressed to a lady of his acquaintance, one stanza of which I thus rendered:—

“ In her accommodating creed
A Lord's will always supersede
A commoner's embraces;
His Lordship's love contents the fair,
Until enabled to ensnare
A nobler prize—his Grace's!
Unhappy are the youths that gaze,” &c.

Your English coquette, who rushes headlong into error, is, I think, overcharged. We have lots of coquettes in the market who are too wise so to act. They are content to play off one man against the other; being in their own persons as marble as the Venus de Medicis—I was going to say, as ivory as Pygmalion's statue, but this was warmed into life. When George the Third was perplexed by any intrigue at Windsor Castle, he used to say, “ Well, I'll go and ask Lady Harrington; she is sure to tell me the truth.” So I say with regard to you. If I am annoyed by any crotchet of the brain, I say to myself, “ I will ask Mrs. Holme; she is sure to tell me the truth.” Preserve, I entreat you, this estimable quality; it will stand you in stead much more than talent or beauty, bountiful as nature has been to you in these particulars.

I am not able “ to write in good spirits;” this languor

and feverish heat keep me down. "Mathews' Life," two volumes in continuation by his widow, I am in daily expectation of receiving. When I do so, I will send you the four volumes, where I suspect you will see something about me, as I wrote some of his "At Home."

I have gone half through ——'s novel, and do not find it so very bad; quotations all incorrect, also too evangelical. Lugging in a special providence by the head and shoulders upon every little occasion, is very questionable policy; it cuts two ways; if special providence is called upon to get us out of a scrape, was it not equally special providence that brought us into it?

Sleepy again! what can it mean? the pen nearly drops from my hand: I can barely write now. Sincerely I remain, yours ever, &c.

Frederick Lillies' two sonnets do him much credit.

28, Craven Street,
Wednesday, May 9th, 1838.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

I have at length paid a visit to Deville the phrenologist; the following is a literal copy of his certificate:—
"Great kindness shown to children; warm in friendship; it is a point that requires care, as inconvenience may arise in serving others. Irritable at times, with some anger if offended, being liable to become irritable on trifles more than upon things of importance. Firm in the views and opinions, particularly upon important matters. Not over positive. Sensitive to approbation and distinction, it being a motive for most of the actions; but feeling conscious of your own power, and the respect you consider your due. Rather tenacious on the point of honour in seeking it, not stooping to servile means to obtain it. Much urbanity of manner shown in society, and much general knowledge and information developed. Property not coveted further than its purposes in life.

A high respect for religion and its institutions. For occupation, the development of the intellectual faculties is strong. You *should* possess much useful information, languages, classics, literature, history, science, and mathematics, well understood, and with facility applied to highly useful purposes, and various practical purposes. Some poetical feeling, if studied. Works of art pleasing, with power for drawing. Things out of parallel lines or upright quickly seen. Music should give pleasure, and if studied, a good ear and judgment of it. Fond of system and arrangement by those under the direction. A great dislike to gaudy or showy colours in dress or furniture. You have many schemes and contrivances, which may cause you expenditure in buildings or alterations. You should possess a good memory for things read or observed.

(Signed) "J. DEVILLE.

"May 7, 1838."

Deville evidently did not know me. He added further in conversation, that I took, or ought to take, a prominent lead in affairs literary or political; but that if on committees, a small number, say three, would please me most. Of the accuracy of his admeasurement, I, of course, am not a competent judge. He has clearly over-rated me in some particulars: I fear I have not the high religious character he assigns to me; and that he has given me too much of science and mathematics. The expenditure in building or alterations is an odd coincidence, as I have lately had the lower apartments of my house under repair. If he means figuratively castles in the air, he is wonderfully accurate. I have always had a tendency to that sort of architecture; some of those places of ideal strength have recently

"Toppled on their warder's head,"

which had been previously turned, as if purposely to receive them. What do you think of the fidelity of the

portrait in its general features? If true, it ought to be endorsed on my engraved portrait which hangs in your ante-room.

Deville's room was stuffed full of skulls. I suppose there might be two or three hundred arranged upon shelves. These, he told me, were from different nations, he having some theory about national character. I could not help reflecting, (while he was feeling my head and pencilling down the result,) of the brains that had peopled those now empty tenements; the thoughts, schemes, pains, pleasures, and pursuits, that had once existed there. And now—but it is a strange world! Around the apartment were also arranged more pleasing objects, namely, busts of the celebrated dead and living; among the rest, Byron with his smooth Apollonian beauty, and Tom Moore with his chin in the air. When you next visit London, you *must* undergo a similar scrutiny. I asked him if baldness did not facilitate the matter. He answered, “No, not much, I am guided by the touch.” So then, your fine head of hair will not impede the investigation.

I rode in the Park on Friday with Count d'Orsay, who said Lady B. had received a beautiful poem from Mrs. Torre Holme. His light blue trousers were the admiration of the learned and curious.

I dined on Saturday with——. The gorgeous furniture did not of course please me, who am above characterised as disliking gaudy and showy colours. The M.P. properly remarked that such furniture is all right in an old baronial hall, but to encounter it in a small house in a London street is too startling a transition. The inner drawing-room, fitted up from a model at Pompeii, is in a more classical, and therefore a better taste. Here were busts of Hebe, Laura, Petrarch, Dante, and other worthies. Laura like our Queen, but more like your Emily.

I have written the two *last* stanzas of an ode to that interesting young lady. Do you ever compose poetry after the Hebrew fashion? The Queen's birth-day is, I see, to be celebrated on the 17th, the day previous to

that of Emily. This gift of the precedence to her sovereign is dutiful and proper. Talking of a fine head of hair, please to notice the following; it is extracted from the Magazine of Domestic Economy:—"If young ladies will give orders to their laundresses not to put any starch in these articles of dress, (nightcaps,) they will be pleased with the result. Starch is a substance, and by the movement of the head during the night it becomes loosened from the muslin, and necessarily lodges in the hair, making it unsightly, and causing much unnecessary brushing."

An odd idea came into my skull while contemplating those of Deville. I fixed my eye upon a small one with good teeth, and could not divest myself of the notion that it appertained to Arabella Fermor, the Belinda of Pope's Rape of the Lock.

"When, after thousands slain, yourself shall die,
When those fair suns shall set, as set they must,
And all our pride be humbled in the dust,
This lock," &c.

Now, though Arabella's skull is even as one of these, yet, in spite of its teeth, if it were identified, it would give birth to very melancholy reflections. A tomb we must all have, but a mausoleum in one's own park is a little too personal. I am not partial to the phrase now so common, "She is a very nice person." Is it that the word woman is reckoned indelicate? I suppose Henry has given you my brother Horace's novels. Do you find them "*dolle*?"* If so, pray say so, and I will write you some better ones.

Mrs. Glover† reminded me on Tuesday, that on that day she had just been twenty-four years in my service. What a lapse of time! How different was I then from

* "*Dolle*," dull. This refers to an English letter from a French gentleman to a friend of Mrs. Holme's, in which he says, "Since you left Paris the *Rivoli Street* is very *dolle*, and *all my charms* are transported to the *Tamise River*."

† His housekeeper.—Ed.

that which I am now ! then a rattling, lively, fresh-coloured man of the town, running from dinner to rout, and from tavern to opera, and now quiet and contented, with all my social eggs in one basket. May the basket never break ! I dined to-day at the Union, upon lamb-chops : I never order anything else while they are in season. I observed that —— ordered a luxuriant repast, like Luke in the City Madam. How could you endure that man ? I believe he used to call upon you in Paris. I am certain he has no soul, and if I meet him in paradise, I *shall* be very much surprised. According to your account, —— has a soul. I quite forgot to ask Deville whether I had one. How glad I am that, as the old man says in “ As You Like it,”

“ In my youth I never did apply
Hot and rebellious liquors to my blood.”

The consequence is, that I now can dine upon mutton and drink water with an unabated appetite.

27, Craven Street,
Thursday, 5th, October, 1837.

I dined yesterday with ——, at Ivy Cottage, Fulham, a beautiful retreat in the Swiss fashion, with staircase outside, &c. B—— and I went together. During our journey, he communicated to me the following strange story. A young, talented, and handsome married woman, whom he would only designate as Camilla, called upon him relative to an engagement on the stage. She had every requisite. B—— strongly advised her against it, telling her that its various horrors would be insuperable to a gentlewoman. She had, it appeared, a brute of a husband, from whom she had separated herself. She one day called upon B——, and seeing on the mantel-piece a phial marked “ poison,” asked him if he could help her to some slow poison. She appeared learned at that head, mentioning a slow poison known ages

ago, as *Toffonia*, and alluding to Madame Brinvilliers, who had destroyed several persons by that mode. He of course said that he could not accommodate her. Being, upon reflection, prevailed upon to forego her design of going upon the stage, she was induced to return to her husband. Her last letter to B—— was written at the bedside of her husband, who, she said, was suffering under a slow and consuming illness. Not long ago, an elderly lady in black called upon B——, calling herself the mother of Camilla, and earnestly requesting to know whether he was acquainted with the place of her daughter's retreat; adding that her husband had died, and that Camilla had thereupon suddenly absconded! B—— assured her (with truth) that he was quite ignorant upon the subject. Is not this a strange narrative? and does it not appear very probable that Camilla had administered *Toffonia*, and, frightened at what she had done, had made a rapid retreat into obscurity? — was of the party. We were six in number—not uproarious, and therefore pleasant. I said rather a good thing. It was mentioned that a certain confectioner thickened his isinglass with dissolved parchment, whereupon I observed that some fierce people made you eat your words, but that he ate his deeds. I have no rooms for other news.

Yours very truly.

27, Craven Street,
Saturday, 24th February, 1838.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

Does it not occasionally occur to you to feel what the musicians call “perfectly in tune?” mind and body equally alert and joyous. And if so, do you not in memory associate certain times and places with the occurrence of that delightful temperament? For myself, I call to mind one. You remember our visit at Ravens Court House.* I set out to join the party on a delightful morning, in a tilbury. The open air, the easy motion of the vehicle, the expectation of what was to ensue, and

* The seat of George Scott, Esq.

a perfectly healthy state of body, joined to produce feelings of perfect felicity, which, like angel visits, are few and far between. Perhaps it was wisely ordained that such sensations should not follow each other too closely, or they would become comparatively tasteless. The rich and the great are generally strangers to all this, because they do not husband their resources. I have sometimes observed a baked dinner carrying home to the proprietor, consisting of a piece of beef, potatoes, and a Yorkshire pudding, and I have said to myself, "the owner of that need not envy Lord Seston. Hunger is better than a French cook."

This culinary image reminds me of an anecdote: Lord Hertford, Croker, and myself, were at an exhibition of pictures. One of them, a domestic scene, I think, by Mulready, represented a husband carving a boiled leg of mutton. The orifice displayed the meat red and raw, and the husband was looking at his wife with a countenance of anger and disappointment. "That fellow is a fool," observed Lord Hertford; "he does not see what an excellent broil he may have."

Doctor Paris has just been with me. Pulse languid. He has prescribed a tonic. He talked of the folly of patients prescribing for themselves, and quoted a fable of Camerarius. An ass laden with salt was crossing a brook. The water diluted the salt, and lightened the burden. He communicated his discovery to a brother donkey laden with wool. The latter tried the same experiment, and found his load double in weight.

27, Craven Street, Sunday evening.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

Captain Marryat is a blunt downright man; I meet him occasionally at the Garrick Club. He appears in the present *New Monthly Magazine* under the title of "Confessions and Opinions of Ralph Restless." In that article he combats the assertion of the "Désennuyée," viz., that "some authors will not let out their new ideas, cause they require them for their books." Marryat

says, "Where could you find such conversationists as Coleridge, Charles Lamb, Sir John Malcom, and many others who are gone? And among those in existence I have but to mention Croker, Theodore Hook, Professor Wilson, Bulwer, Lockhart, the Smiths; and, in the other sex, Mesdames Somerville, Austin, and Jameson. Now those," continues the author, "are all first-rate authors in their various styles; and I can challenge any one to bring forward an equal number out of the whole mass who are so powerful or delightful in society." Thus far the Captain. By the Smiths he probably means James and his brother Horace. The first named of these twin bards, (the Castor and Pollux of literature,) I have been intimate with from my childhood; and yet, in spite of the Greek aphorism, I doubt whether I *know* him yet. You have seen him, I understand, at ——— Lodge, and more recently under your own roof, and have therefore had a good opportunity of judging of his merits and demerits. You have also probably read his work, and can judge whether he disappoints you most as an author or as a companion. Which do you on the whole prefer,—his tongue or his pen? I told him lately that I was about to put this question to you. He has a very high opinion of your judgment and of your sincerity, and therefore awaits your decision with no ordinary anxiety. As you live in a retired manner, and do not amuse him with much company, you must have seen his mind and manners in their undress. "No man is a hero to his valet de chambre." I will not here state what he thinks of you, as such an avowal might affect your verdict. Fancy yourself to be stationed in Madame de Genlis Palace of Truth, and "nothing extenuate, nor ought set down in malice." What a new quotation!

27, Craven Street,
Friday, 2d March, 1837.

My long confinement from illness has given me a habit of passing the evenings at home. The clubs or

dinner society are no longer necessary to my comfort. I think I shall be more sparing of these recreations in future. At all events, at the beginning of every month, as now, when the periodicals make their appearance, I shall dine and pass the evening at home. Theatres have long been out of the question. I, who used to live in them, now do not visit them more than three or four times in a season. The opera, serious and buffa, I still like. Madame Vestris, too, still tenders her attractions.

27, Craven Street,
Tuesday, 6th February, 1838.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

Your husband favoured me with a visit on Saturday, and has, no doubt, given you a favourable account of my convalescence. I had determined to trust to nature, and call in no physician; but nature, like others of her sex, bestows her favours chiefly on the young. I felt myself growing weaker and weaker, so I at last determined upon calling in Dr. Paris. He told me I was sinking, ordered me a vapour bath, and sent in the requisite medicines.

What you say about non-obligation to friends is perfectly reasonable and true. For instance, I send for newspapers, magazines, and reviews, to divert my mind during my confinement. If you were present, I should be gratified by reading them to you or with you. But you are thirty miles off. Well, the next best gratification is the idea that they will please you. Is there any merit in sending them to —, in preference to throwing them aside on some top shelf in my library? Massinger, in his "City Madam," represents Luke at a magnificent feast, and expressing his delight that he has it all to himself. What a monstrous fiction! No man would enjoy a feast by himself. I see members of the clubs, of known wealth, dining by themselves upon one, or, at most, two dishes. Depend upon it, we are creatures of sympathy.

My cat has just thrown down the crutch cane which poor General Phipps left me, having purchased it at Venice. At his last birthday, aged, like your uncle, 77, I dined with him at his house in Mount Street.

My last letter to you was written in rather a peevish and desponding strain, the effect of sickness. In your answer, you rather lost sight of the maxim of king Solomon, "A soft answer turneth away wrath." My wrath, however, has evaporated of itself. How glad I am that I was educated in a country village! Westminster and the Charter-house,—what abominations! Who can extract poetry from Dean's Yard or Aldersgate Street? whereas now I can "watch the wheeling swallow" in imagination, and your mind can revert to your youthful days in the neighbourhood of Marlow.

I have not yet been able to venture out. Perhaps by Thursday next I may get to one of the clubs, but not, like Le Sage's lame devil, on two crutches. People are so sympathising; they seem to care so much, and they really care so little. Besides, according to my theory, sickness is humiliation. I hope you, however, do not go the length of Charles Lamb:—"People in general don't like sick persons; I frankly own I hate them."

What's the rule of visiting in your part of the country? I suppose you don't think, at this season of the year, of dining out and returning at night. The idea is preposterous. Country and London visiting have their respective merits and demerits. Here we see people for a few hours, and know nothing about them. You see them more in their real state, whether for good or for evil. When you do alight upon pleasant people, yours is the preferable lot. Out of evil cometh good. Who would have imagined that out of my visit at — Lodge, two years ago, could have sprung my present intimacy with you? It is possible that the tide of life might throw you in the way of somebody you would like better.—

How sweet an Ovid Murray was our boast,
How many Martials were in Pult'ney lost!

But now I am a bit nervous at your launching out upon this expedition. Leave well alone, is my maxim. I mean to go on and on with your poems by heart. My favourite subjects are "Flattery" and "Death." Write to me when you have leisure, but not merely in answer. I always get your handwriting with pleasure; and all yours, as your "lover" be "soft."

I don't fancy General Phipps used to have much luck in his love. He once asked me if I liked a new poem. I answered—No; I know nothing in that way and may as well look out of it." How the man staid at a moment with the book? I used never to think of my dinner and now, confined as I am, it is a matter of consideration. What are you reading? I am deep in the history of Europe in the year 1800. Bonaparte is just made first consul, and is about to renew the war with Austria. Lord Grenville having haughtily rejected his overtures of peace.

I read of the snakes, and recall the time when I used to sweep the Serpentine on the outside edge. "O the days when I was young!" Well, you never knew me otherwise than what I am. That is some consolation! When you write again, send me back Jane Lomax. You will find a prospectus of E. L. Bulwer's new magazine at the end of Fair's.

Better still this morning,—am thinking of dining at the club. Horrid dream last night, viz., that I was engaged to be married—some politic arrangement. Introduced to my bride, a simpering young woman with flaxen hair, in white gloves. Just going to declare off, (*coute qui coute*,) when, to my inexpressible relief, I awoke. Symptoms of a thaw. "For this relief much thanks."
J. S.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

I dined, the day of my return to town, at the Garrick Club, and had two offers of tickets for the opera, which I declined, the opera being Otello. A white woman killed by a black man is not a pleasant subject for song: so I spent the evening in the library, reading the life of Mr Edward Coke. Lord Brougham, in the present

number of the Edinburgh Review, is terribly angry with the daily press. I remember when he called it the "best possible public instructor"—but this was when it eulogized him.

Did I ever tell you of Lord Essex keeping a portrait of a lady in his bed-room, always covered by a curtain of green silk? On one of my visits to Cashiobury, when the family were at church, I stole into that apartment, and laid bare the mystery. Nothing equal to it in the mysteries of Udolpho!! I met, at a dinner-party yesterday, the intimate friend of the late Lady ——. That lady, a few days before her death, made my informant read to her all the love-letters written in the days of courtship by her subsequently alienated lord. What a mournful retrospect! I knew her a few years before their separation;—good-humoured, fat, elderly, and deaf. I remember their joint portrait in the exhibition—"Sic transit gloria amoris."

In a note in the Quarterly Review of Bowles's poems, the reviewer talks of Shakspeare's sonnets as obscure and mysterious, adding, "On the subject of their authenticity we entertain very grave doubts, which we propose, on an early occasion, opening fully to the reader." If he succeeds, you, like the character in his *Tempest*, "will cry to sleep again," and exclaim with Mandane, "Oh, let me be deceived!"*

27, Craven Street.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

When young I used to have pleasant dreams, and awake to disappointments. I now have horrid ones, and awake to pleasure. Which has the better bargain? Suppose you turn this into an epigram.

Mrs. Matthews is correct in stating (see vol. ii. page 53, 54,) that I received nothing for what I then wrote; but for my subsequent efforts, viz., *Country Cousins*,

* Mrs. Holme's strongly expressed admiration of Shakspeare's sonnets led Mr. Smith to write his imitations of them.

Trips to Paris, Air Ballooning, and Trip to America, I received from him altogether £1,000 ! A thousand pounds for tomfoolery ! “ You are the only man in London,” said he to me, “ who can write what I want, good nonsense.” He was in all money matters a liberal, honest man, but a very troublesome one to write for. He was what Buonaparte denominated Murat, the spoiled child of victory. Captious and timid as to effects, his wife and I used to drill him in his songs.

You don't know ———. He married a widow, Sam Weller's warning not having then appeared in print. His wife is really a sensible, agreeable woman, but I espied in the drawing-room a bible and prayer-book of Patagonian dimensions. This, methought, looked suspicious. Whenever people are super-religious, it is sure to break out in quarto. Sunday dinners were in due course forbidden. ———'s friend, Colonel ———, gives Sunday dinners of unexceptionable quality. Hence arose domestic bickering. The spiritual dry rot had got into the house, and damped the timbers of their attachment. She has gone to reside in France, and her evangelical friends abuse poor ——— beyond measure, calling him an atheist !

Craven Street, Monday, 10th July.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,

In the year 1832, I happened to be strolling in the gardens of Hampton Court Palace ; Belinda, in Pope's *Rape of the Lock*, came into my mind, and I fancied the exact spot from which she launched on the silver Thames. Impressed with this notion, and comparing the then state of the palace with its present unkingly aspect, I tried my hand at *Popery*, and produced what you may perhaps think smacks more of the *Pretender* :

“ Majestic Thames, 'tis thine, with sinuous pace,
 'To lave this terrace wall's embattled base,
 Placid and pure as when in Anna's reign,
 Serene Belinda, and her courtly train,

Launched the light bark amid Favonian gales,
 And busy Ariel trimmed the silken sails.
 But oh ! how changed thy precincts, Silver Thame,
 Thy *shore* how different, though thy *stream* the same
 The avenue that crowns this verdant slope,
 No longer echoes to the Lyre of Pope :
 No courtly dames in yon quadrangle bloom,—
 Where shall we find the Baron or Sir Plume ?
 In what dark prison-house confined remain,
 The amber snuff-box and the clouded cane ?
 Back to blue heaven the sylphs affrighted flee,
 And leave these alleys to the Gnome Ennui ;
 Pert politics the tired attention tease,
 Desponding nymphs prognosticate disease ;
 Gigantic cholera bestrides the storm,
 And unfledged cornets lecture on reform.”

I am sorry your uncle —— dislikes poetry. My father entertained similar opinions, and never opened his lips in presence of his two sons, on the subject of the Rejected Addresses, when it might have been supposed our success would have justified our wandering from the path of prose.

“ Quit, quit this barren trade, our father cried,
 Even Homer left no riches when he died.”—POPE.

I hope —— will not accuse me of having seduced you into the primrose path of poetical dalliance, and of laughing when I heard you had poisoned yourself with the waters of Helicon.*

I like your village ; it is not only umbrageous in itself, but possesses the singular property of casting all other places into shade. I write this letter on a half-sheet, to show I do not always fill four pages. Adieu !

Craven Street, 17th February.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLME,
 Those perfect beauties of PARRIS, I agree with you

* Alluding to the anecdote I told you.

in thinking, have a tendency to insipidity. Only suppose all women to be so ;—it would be like Madame Tousseint's waxwork. Ever while you live, avoid being a perfect beauty. I mean to do so ! I must get up, however, what good looks I have by the summer season, that Mrs. T. may know me from my portrait. At present she would be rather puzzled to do so.

I am not surprised at your Frenchman's definition of gratitude—the expectation of more favours. It is very characteristic, and forms a suitable *pendant* to the French definition of happiness—a hard heart and a good digestion. I must confess, I don't like those Gauls. They have no moral sentiment, no poetry, bad music, and bad manners—that is to say, artificial ones, though there are, of course, many exceptions. In taking the road of demoralisation, they have egregiously mistaken the road to happiness. What says Mackenzie's Man of Feeling, when in love ?—

“I lean on my hand with a sigh,
My friends the soft sadness condemn,
Yet methinks, though I cannot tell why,
I should hate to be merry like them.”

A lady wrote me a letter yesterday, telling me that she would soon be fifty years of age, and requesting some verses on the occasion. I sent her the following :—

“ My bark of fate in safety steers,
Next Sunday makes me fifty ;
How prodigal is Time of years—
I wish he were more thrifty.”

I have found out a blunder in Shakspeare ! Hamlet writes to Ophelia thus :—

“ Doubt that the stars are fire,
Doubt that the earth doth move,
Doubt truth to be a liar,
But never doubt my love.”

He means to state a series of self-evident propositions ; but to doubt truth to be a liar is the very reverse of this. He should have said, *believe* truth to be a liar. This may possibly have been hit on by some of the commentators, but I am not aware of it.

The author of "Our Village" describes herself and her acquaintance as all living in one corner of the village. What a convenience in weather like this ! I saw something like this, several years ago, when I visited Mr. Grover, one of the provosts of Eton College. All the provosts, with their families, reside in a huge quadrangle, the fault of which was, that it rendered visiting too easy, and they were never out of each other's houses. No : there must be some difficulty to overcome.

Did I tell you of a pun of mine upon —, who, since the obtaining of his pension, has ceased to write ? viz. that he was a *pen-shunner*. Not so very bad. Tell this to your husband.

Count d'Orsay called on me yesterday. The mixture of gaiety and good sense in his conversation makes him always most acceptable to me. My letters, I fear, from their frequency, must rather bore you ; but the fact is, I write to you as I would talk to you, and it is a great amusement to me during my confinement. Do not answer me as a matter of course. Write only when you feel so disposed.

27, Craven Street,
28th January.

MY DEAR MRS. HOLNE,

I have not quitted my house since I saw you. Rheumatism and gout have again annoyed me, and reduced me to a state of great feebleness. I entertain no hope of amendment until the arrival of milder weather. Were you ever confined to your house by a long illness ? It is irksome to a high degree. But you have the resource of your family, I only my books and my pen. I am plagued with a continually recurring dream at night.

What it is, I have no recollection of in the morning, except that it annoys me at the time. Another week of languor and confinement, with little amendment. No appetite for meat, and spirits proportionately depressed. It is a crisis of nature to which I have looked forward for nearly a twelvemonth past. I have during that time (I think I told you before) been visited by a tendency to drowsiness even in the morning. 'This might, perhaps, have been counteracted by resolute temperance, avoiding meat and wine. But this would have caused me to decline all society, and I confess I was not prepared to make such a sacrifice. I have employed no physican, knowing, as I well know the cause of the malady, and have a particular aversion to medicine. If I get through this lingering attack, I mean to watch myself in future; and should any symptoms of sleepiness recur, I shall have recourse to a strict hermit diet. My brother Leonard was called away, like your poor friend Admiral M——, on the instant; to my mind the best possible exit. Swift in anticipation of his demise, says,

“Poor Pope will grieve a month, and Gay
A week, and Arbuthnot a day.”

I flatter myself, on such an event, your regret would last as long as Pope's. I have this consolation at all events,—in the course of nature you must survive me. Johnson says of Pope “This early maturity of mind united him with men older than himself, so that he had the misfortune of seeing the friends of his youth sink into the grave.” I am happy to say that I have reversed this. My immaturity of mind has generally associated me with people younger than myself. Good-humour, gaiety, love of music, and social life, have associated me with people (especially females) who might be my children. What, for instance, can well be more extraordinary than your friendship for such a gray-headed sexagenarian as myself? My brother Horace wrote some lines on this subject, ascribing it to juvenility of mind. 'They finished thus :—

“Voltaire was young at eighty-four,
And Fontenelle at near a hundred.”

My face, as my morning glass notifies, has shrunk during this malady. I must give it time to rally before you see it. The gout has taken firm possession of my right foot, which is now "a world too wide" for your handsome slipper. This I do not mind. It is my determination to run before the gale, in hopes of riding out the malady; in the meantime I have all the personal indulgence I can wish for. I am wheeled in my arm-chair from my parlour to my adjoining bed-room, and the attentions of Mrs. Glover, my housekeeper, are unremitting. Of pain I experience but little. My greatest annoyances are solitude and lassitude. This is a gloomy sort of epistle: its merits is, that it is a sincere one. Imagination carries me forward to happier times—to some genial day in spring, and adrive in your barouche to call on Mrs. —, or to — to preach an extempore sermon. Poor Miss —! What a life is that of a governess! becoming attached to children, and then torn from them to form other attachments, and experience similar separations. She must quit your roof with peculiar regret. Kind remembrances to your husband, and believe me to remain, dear Mrs. Holme,

Sincerely yours, &c.

MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES.

MILK AND HONEY,

OR

THE LAND OF PROMISE.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS FROM AMERICA.

LETTER I.

SIR BALAAM BARROW TO MR. JEREMIAH DAWSON.

CONTENTS.

The Wasp, Captain Waters—Yankee Porter at New York—Reasons for quitting England—Decline and Fall of the Mammonian Empire at Lloyd's—Gradation from private Carriage to public Stage "irksome"—Calamity at Kennington—Herne Hill and Madame Storace—Diogenes in his Tub—Tirade against Assessed Taxes, Tithes, and Parsons—Fox without a Tail.

DEAR Sir, the American brig, Captain Waters,
Having landed me safe, with my son and two daughters,
On the Pier at New York; and a porter, half drunk,
Having trotted off "right slick away" with my trunk,
In trousers, black cravat, and yellow straw hat awry,
To one Mrs. Bradish's, fronting the Battery;
(I paid half a dollar, for which the gaunt Yankee
Return'd me the devil the ghost of a thankye);
I dip a bad pen in an inkstand of pewter,
To con o'er the past, and descant on the future.

You know—who does not?—what commercial voids
 The Peace has produced in the squadron at Lloyd's;
 Time was when my carriage (with biscuits the boot in)
 Convey'd me, at three, from the 'Change-gate to Tooting,
 And when Tooting clock had toll'd half after ten,
 Convey'd me, next morning, to London again,
 Where brokers pronounced me, in special committee,
 The most well-to-do sort of man in the City.

Well! finding trade shy, and the taxes encroach,
 I sold off my horses and laid down my coach:
 My girls, for their parts, preferr'd walking; and Dick
 Could never ride backward without being sick.
 So I now, with a visage as sour as Judge Page's,
 Took a small house at Clapham, and rode in the stages.

Descending a "grade," I ascended to ride
 As one of the six who were licensed inside;
 And met the mishaps that occur in wet weather,
 When a jury of legs are empannell'd together.
 I wanted to let down the glass, but a youth
 On the opposite side had a pain in his tooth:
 I wanted to pull up the glass, but was chid
 By a widow, whose brat would be sick if I did:
 I wanted to sleep, but a girl in a shawl
 Kept asking how far we were off from Vauxhall;
 And nine times in ten, some tremendous fat woman,
 Who wanted to get out at Kennington Common,
 With a kick, on alighting, that set the coach rocking,
 Left the mud of her clog on my white cotton stocking!
 "Why, sir," even you must admit that a nation
 That tolerates this, must expect emigration.
 "But why"—in your last you interrogate—"roam
 Abroad, when you might sport the savage at home?
 If *Nature* attract you, you're mighty unlucky
 Indeed not to find her on this side Kentucky.
 I'm apt to suspect that the dame lurks beneath
 The brushwood of Finchley and Wimbledon Heath,
 And proffers, unfetter'd by Custom-house laws,
 Abundance of hips, and whole hedges of haws;
 Nay, more,—thus you argue—"my worthy friend Barrow,
 You need not go even so far off as Harrow:
 At Dulwich I'll point out a glen, wild and patchy,
 Not a mile from the mansion of Madame Storace,

Where Nature, not shackled by Townsend or Sayers,
Has scoop'd out, to shelter the 'right slick away-ers,'
A snug hollow tree, where a patriot may lodge in his
Glory, nor envy the tub of Diogenes!"

All this, Jerry Dawson, 's undoubtedly true,
But with the main question has nothing to do.

In all the cross-grains of us mortals below,
'Tis not what ourselves, but what other folks know.
What a kicking would many a hectoring elf
Endure, could he but keep the fact to himself!
To be jilted is nothing—mere pastime and revel—
But then to be *known* to be jilted 's the devil.
Kind husbands oft wink at *faux-pas* of co-sleepers,
But, if the town knows it, they *can't* close their peepers;
And traders are loth "their affairs" to disclose
To the pity of friends and the malice of foes.

Impress'd with these truths, my two daughters, my son,
And myself, soon determined to cut and to run;
Resolved to invest all our spare love and money
In the land that is flowing with milk and with honey.
"Why, sir!" Job himself could not parry the worry
I constantly felt in the county of Surrey.
At the bare word "assessment" my diaphragm writhes,
I faint at the vile monosyllable "tithes;"
I don't care a farthing for gibbets and axes,
But I can't bear the pleural of tax, namely, taxes.
Some folks hate a spider, but I hate a parson,
As much as an Albion director hates arson!

Then hey for the West!—how I grudge every hour I
Expend, ere I cross the Mississippi, Missouri,
With woods where the view of an Englishman rare is,
And squat myself down in the Illinois Prairies.
If I hit, well and good; if I miss, well and good too;
I'll sink what it does, and proclaim what it should do.
I'll change the brown Wabash to yellow Pactolus;
If I tumble, like Wildgoose, I'll not tumble solus.
My taken-in friends may reproach me—who cares?
'The trap that diminish'd my tail shall dock theirs.

B. B.

LETTER II.

IS SABRINA BARROW TO MISS FANNY FADE.

allusion—Æneas and the Sibyl—Gradations—from a
 y to a Blue—Joys of Eighteen—Bond Street—The Opera
 ting Assembly—Quadrilles—Sister Lydia coming out—
 Sabrina going in—Ap and Peri-helion—Waltzes—Terp-
 e sells off her stud—La Poule—Pilpay and Æsop—Dogs,
 and Birds—Evangelical Blues—Anti-parturient—Evans's
 —Floating Ark—Hebrews at Hackney—Belzoni—Women
 yptian Hall and London Tavern—And why—To strangle
 serpents—Abelard and Eloise—Sabrina's Reasons for going
 erica.

unny, you wrong me: I am not "quite frantic,"
 ough I have ventured to cross the Atlantic.
 ng, unexplain'd, may excite your surprise,
 n you consider the wherefores and whys,
 tter shall paint them,) I hope to awaken
 arty applause at the step I have taken.

ge, my dear friend, I may say, *entre nous*,
 hat the public suppose—thirty-two;
 hey the baptismal fact would divine,
 m strike out the "Two" and interpolate "Nine."

Blues love a classic allusion, so I seize
 yl's, who walked with the son of Anchises,
 tter my leaves, per the Lynx, Captain Wade,
 it all my woes to my dear Fanny Fade.

rely eighteen, when the men praised my hair,
 pa lived at Tooting and Finsbury-square,
 nd of my title, Sabrina the Pretty,
 l up my nose at a match in the City;
 hopping to Bond-street, where few people knew me—
 aux, three by three, raise their glasses to view me;
 ff to the Opera—sat in the pit—
 ighty good care not to speak to a Cit:
 ped, when my suitors began to importune,
 end of the season to marry a fortune;
 ing follow'd winter, and still failed to bring
 ing that I wanted—a Man with a Ring.

Descending a peg, with a mercantile beau
 At Tooting assembly I sported a toe :
 Had still many partners, each fortunate man,
 Mark'd, one after one, on my white spangled fan.
 Wherever they came from, I aim'd to entrap 'em,
 As far down as Mitcham, as far up as Clapham :
 In private rehearsals I practised my heels,
 To open the very first set of quadrilles :
 Set right, by mere pushing each blundering fool ;
 And knowing that Lydia would soon come from school,
 It struck me, while eyeing the mole on my chin,
 That her coming out might be my going in ;
 For Shakspeare has open'd that truth to mankind,
 If two men ride one horse, one must ride behind.
 I therefore redoubled my ogles and freaks,
 Drew a hare's foot of rouge o'er the bones of my cheeks,
 Whizz'd round in a waltz, with a neck red as copper,
 And whisper'd, " I hope that it is not improper."
 Yet still, as old Time kept expanding his wing,
 He never brought forward the Man with the Ring.

Past thirty—turn'd out of Terpsichore's stud,
 " Lamed, spavin'd, and wind-gall'd, yet still with some
 blood,"

Now and then overhearing the men cry—" Poor Sabby,"
 And the girls—" Eight-and-thirty — I know it—old Tabby,"
 Condemn'd, while the whirl of La Poule made me giddy,
 To pin up the train of the tittering Lyddy,
 And set her a-going on that very floor
 That often had echo'd my footsteps before
 I gave o'er the chase ; let the fount of love freeze up ;
 And woo'd the dumb heroes of Pilpay and Æsop :—
 Kept a pug in a collar, a dormouse, a kitten,
 A squirrel, a poodle more biting than bitten,
 A parrot who swung in eternal see-saw,
 'Two murmuring doves, and a screaming macaw :—
 In blue book-societies loiter'd to chat
 With the Reverend this and the Reverend that :
 Join'd the tribe who, forbidden by hard-hearted men
 To dandle an innocent—dandle a pen,
 Pert poets with mouths by the Quarterly curb hurt,
 Lank wives who have never call'd in Doctor Herbert :
 Prim maids, like myself, with an eye that detects
 All the thin subdivisions in Evans's Sects,

And knows to a hair every cross in the breed,
 From the Jumpers in Wales to the lunatic Swede.
 Then came the thick shoes, on two feet void of graces :
 Decided objection to all *public* places :
 Yet running, by hundreds, to Belzoni's cavern,
 The Mansion-house Hall, and the New London Tavern :
 The Bible in Sanscrit, for Copts and Lascars :
 Arks floating off Wapping for soul-founder'd tars :
 With all the devices that keep in subjection
 Our sex's two enemies—Time and Reflection.
 Yet still even these were unable to bring
Id desideratum—the Man with the Ring.

Thus she whom the poet of Twickenham paints,
 Bade Paraclete's echoes repeat her complaints,
 Lay wrapt, in her cell, in ecstasical heavings,
 And gave to Saint Peter Saint Abelard's leavings.

'Thus tied to the stake in Sir Balaam's dull domus,
 As cold and austere as my namesake in Cornus,
 Condemn'd, when my sister should wed, to rehearse,
 Hereafter, for Lydia, the part of the nurse,
 Performing what many a sister has done,
 The work of three maids for the wages of one,
 Sore sick of the world, from the Old I withdrew,
 And gladly set sail with papa for the New ;
 Of which more hereafter.—Dear Fanny, adieu !

S. B.

LETTER III.

MISS LYDIA BARROW TO MISS KITTY BROWN.

"Moving Accidents by Flood"—Neptune enemy to Female Attire
 —Castle of Otranto—Guy's Hospital—Mrs. Jordan—Mrs. Mon-
 soon's Boarding-school—Logier's System—Family Pride—Ba-
 laam—Monument-yard and Jerusalem—Bonaparte—Hone's
 Wood-cuts—Major Cartwright and Billy Austin—Ings, the
 Butcher—His mode of changing an Administration—Princess
 in Fleet-street—Habeas, but not Corpus; and why—Parting
 Benediction.

Oh Kitty ! such bawling, such trampling of decks !
 Such tales of sea-monsters, tornadoes, and wrecks !

My puce-colour'd cloak is soak'd through with the rain :
 You never would know my green bonnet again ;
 The silk is all cover'd with spots, and the feather
 Flaps down like a lily in boisterous weather :
 The lining's not hurt, so I mean to unrip it ;
 But the surge has quite ruin'd my white-spotted tippet ;
 And the waves of the ocean, like ill-natured brutes,
 Have rotted the fur on my blue leather boots,
 In short, what with monsters who haul'd my portmanteau
 Ashore, half as big as the man in Otranto ;
 Grim figures in trousers, who quiz our noblesse,
 And say, when they mean to be certain, they guess ;
 And inns, where the folks, cheek-by-jowl, close their eyes,
 Ten beds in a room, like the patients at Guy's :
 I'm like Mrs. Jordan, unable to tell
 If I'm dead or alive, Lady Loverule, or Nell !

You and I, arm in arm ever destined to grapple,
 When the school two by two walk'd on Sunday to chapel ;
 Where I gave a nod to Tom Osborne, and you
 A smile to George Hughes, in the opposite pew ;
 Who in the same keiro-plast play'd the same tunes,
 The two aptest scholars, at Mrs. Monsoon's ;
 Little dreamt of the day when whole mountains should frown
 Between Lyddy Barrow and Catherine Brown.

Papa, *entre nous*, rides a hobby, my dear,
 That is rather too high to be canter'd on *here* :
 How strange in a cit ! he has taken a pride
 In his family tree, by the grandmother's side,
 And thinks all plain *Misters* should give him a *salam*,
 Ever since his late Majesty dubb'd him Sir Balaam.
 He proves his ascent, through the Knight who sold soap
 Close to Monument-yard, and is mention'd in Pope,
 Up to him who a donkey bestrid in Jerusalem ;
 Then boasts that our house is as old as Methusalem.
 Dick calls this " a rum kind of swell in old dad,"
 Who turn'd, as Dick calls it, " a regular *Rad*"
 Ever since fall of trade to a Clapham cot pinn'd us,
 And forced us to send back the carriage to Windus.
 In vain I cry " Fiddle de dee ;" it will fix
 In his gizzard, and make him as cross as two sticks.
 He now rips up grievances old as Queen Anne,
 And lays all the blame on poor Chancellor Van.
 He buys Bonapartes enamell'd in bone ;
 He frames and he glazes the wood-cuts of Hone,

And hangs them supported by Queen Caroline, or
 Old Cartwright the Major and Austin the Minor :
 Nay, over the mantel-piece what, of all things,
 Do you think he had stuck up ?—the portrait of *Ings*,
 'The Carnaby hero, who meant to "show fight,"'
 A bag in his left hand, a knife in his right :
 With these he to Cato-street went, being very
 Resolved to decapitate Lord Londonderry.
 How shocking !—Heaven grant that his Majesty may shun
 That method of changing an Administration.

But don't let me lose what I meant to express,
 Before I left England I saw a *Princess* !
 She lodges in Fleet-street, next door to Hone's shop—
 'Two lions that make all the passengers stop.
 Papa and "The Ex" think her case very hard ;
 Says he to me, "Lyddy, we'll both leave a card ;
 Two Kings are her cousins ! girl hold up your neck ;
 Depend on it, Lyddy, it's not a bad spec."
 Like a dutiful daughter I *did* depend on it,
 Went up to my bed-room to put on my bonnet,
 And, as the sun promised a morning of dryness,
 I walk'd without pattens, to wait on her Highness.
 A man opened the door, in a coat which, I think,
 Was dyed, like the rest of the family's, pink.
 But when papa ask'd if the Royal Princess
 Was at home, and the Chamberlain answer'd him "Yes,"
 And civilly told us to walk up together,
 A child might have knock'd me down flat with a feather !
 Her Highness, sweet soul ! made us sit on two chairs,
 And let us, at once, into all her affairs.
 She told us, her foes held her there by a *capias*,
 She meant, as she told us, to move for her *habeas*,
 But has not—perhaps on account of the *corpus*,
 For her's, *entre nous*, is as big as a porpus.
 She mention'd, with pride, how on last Lord Mayor's-day
 Her countenance drew all the people away ;
 But own'd, while they dubb'd her the general charmer,
 It might be because there were no men in armour.

Adieu ! royal dame, falsely called Mrs. Serres,
 For you and your sire are as like as two cherries ;—
 Farewell, injured daughter of Poniatowski,
 You soon should be let out if I held the house-key !

L. B.

LETTER IV.

MR. RICHARD BARROW TO MR. ROBERT BRIGGS.

Specimen of FANCY Rhetoric—Slang, like Madeira, improved by Sea Voyage—Atlantic Adventures—Reference to White Bait at Blackwall—Twickenham Steam Vessel—Chelsea Reach—Name objectionable, and why—Thomas Inkle—Disasters of Tacking—Swan with Two Necks; Lad with One—Sabrina—Latin and Commodore Rogers—Lydia and Don Juan—Sandy Hook—Action at Law—Spick and another versus Barrow the Younger—Coronation at Both Houses—President Adams—Tea and turn out.

HERE I am : right and tight, Bob ; *pull'd up* at New York,
 As brisk as a bee, and as light as a cork :
 Though half the *pool* over I lay like a log,
 Quite *flabber-de-gasky'd*, as sick as a dog !
 How odd ! for you know I ail'd nothing at all,
 When, to *grub* upon white bait, we row'd to Blackwall :
 'Tis true, I wax'd *rum*, on returning by Greenwich,
 But that was because I had eat too much spinage.
 When we *steam'd* it to Twick'nam ; I stuck like a leech
 To the deck, till the vessel approach'd Chelsea Reach ;
 There, I own, I was seiz'd with a qualm and a hiccup,
 And felt in my *Fictualling-office* a kick-up :
 All along of the place : Chelsea Reach ? a vile name !
 Columbus himself would have felt just the same.
 But, Zounds ! Bob, the Thames cannot give you a notion
 " Of all the rude dangers in crossing the ocean."
 (Mem. that's a quotation ; and serves for a sprinkle
 Of learning : like Sabby : I stole it from Inkle.)
 The first thing that posed me was, when I should bob,
 To hinder the gib-boom from scuttling my nob.
 How to hit the thing right was the devil's own poser,
 Three times had the end of it tipped me a *noser*.
 The *flat* of a steersman sang out—" Helm-a-lee !"
 Round swung the long-pole, made no bones of poor me,
 And sent my hat flying a mile out to sea.
 My stars ! how my *knowledge-box* whizz'd round about !
 In short, my dear Bob, 'twas a proper *serve-out*.
 I hav'n't scored up such a pelt on the brain,
 'ee on a stage-top I was *had* in Lad-lane ;

Where, if you don't duck, when the turn you approach,
 So low is the gate-way, so high is the coach,
 You'll add, before *coachee* his vehicle checks,
 The lad with no head to the Swan with two Necks.
 I since wore a cap, made of sealskin and leather,
 Which seems to cry *Noli-me-tan* to the weather.
 I civilly spoke to the Captain my wish
 For a rod, hook, and line, to astonish the fish;
 I got 'em and bobb'd: had a bite from a shark:
 But the double-tooth'd *cull* was not *up to the mark*:
 Again I gave bait, on a hook worse for wearing,
 And caught—damn the *hoaxers*—a salted red herring:
 The sailors, like *spoonneys*, all laugh'd at the trick,
 And nick-named me Lubber and Salt-water Dick.
 Sabrina kept stalking the deck in all weathers,
 In purple pelisse, a Leghorn hat and feathers,
 She now and then puzzled, with Latin, the codgers,
 Which sounded like Hebrew to Commodore Rogers.
 She muttered "O navis: infelix puella,"
 And cried when it blew, "aquilone procella."
 Old dad braved the spray of the sea like a *new one*!
 While Lyd, in the cabin, was reading Don Juan.
 A boy on the top-mast, who kept a sharp look-out,
 Now, from his *potato-trap*, bawl'd "Sandy hook" out,
 Two words that we English did not understand,
 But I guess "Sandy hook" is the Yankee for "Land;"
 For while we were wondering what he could say,
 The pilot had floated us into the Bay.

Lord! who would have thought to have seen Dicky Barrow
 Quit Chancery-lane for the Land of Pizarro.
 You and I were the *prime* ones:—the Fives-court, the Lobby,
 Were all *Betty Martin* without Dick and Bobby.
 Dad show'd himself up for a rank *Johnny Raw*,
 In binding me 'prentice to follow the law.
 You know'd, Bob, I scorn'd such a *spooney* to be
 As to follow the law, so the law follow'd me.
 Spick and Span were my *Schneiders*: dead hits at a button;
 At running a bill up they found me a glutton;
 Spick called: not at home; and I told Mugs, my man,
 To *bounce* when he call'd again: ditto, to Span.
 I thought they'd have *stood* it: the devil a bit:
 They *bolted* a *Davy*, and took out a writ.
 Nanky *flinch'd*: it was no use applying to him;
 So, finding the *stumpy* decidedly *slim*,
 I thought it was best to be *offish* with dad,
 And show that Dick Barrow was not to be *had*.

Now do, there's a dear, draw a quill upon paper,
 And tell us the news.—Is the *wandful* still *taper*?
 Kean bolted off here in a huff: does he bring,
 Like Harrie's *Empress* and Elliston's *King*?
 Or, are you still doted with stars, ribbons, and garters,
 Cars, cream-colour'd horses, poles, platforms, and Tartars!
 We can't own it here like your *Vicounts* and *Madams*
 At *Westminster-Abbey*: our *President Adams*
 To sport a procession has no hidden boards,
 I reckon he'd cut a *sky shear* on the *boards*.
 When guests tack their *trotters* beneath his *mahogany*,
 Short *bits* for *Jonathan*: if for good *prog* any
 Visitor gapes, why the bigger *flat* he:
 The *President* comes down with nothing but *tes*:
 For which, if the *Yankees* know what they're about,
 They'll treat him, next *Caucus*, with *tes* and *turn out*.
 But pen cries *peccavi*, and paper is narrow,
 So, Bob, I'm your *humble cum dumb*,

R. BARROW.

LETTER V.

SIR BALAAM BARROW TO MR. JEREMIAH DAWSON.

Journey to Brighton and Journey in America contrasted.—Land Ladies.—Beggars.—Apples at Coach-door.—Barmaid at Cuck-field.—Ladder from Coach-top.—An American Vehicle, "open to all Parties," viz. at all sides.—No Trustees of Roads.—Divers Queries on the American Language.—Sir Balaam as puzzled as Pizarro.—Cobbett's Grammar.—Questions to one who proposes to emigrate.

WHOEVER has taken, his loose nerves to tighten,
 A journey from Blossom's Inn, Cheapside, to Brighton,
 And finds himself pleasantly rattled to Shoreham,
 At, including stoppages, nine miles *per horam*,
 Must own the whole matter, from basement to attic,
 From fore-horse to hind-wheel, is aristocratic.
 If landladies handle "the worm of the still,"
 If urchins, for halfpennies, tumble up hill;
 If apples are proffer'd, the slighted outriders
 Are always postponed to the four fat insiders.
 To them the lame beggar first takes off his hat,
 To them the spruce landlady lingers to chat.

The barmaid at Cuckfield, apparell'd in white,
To them first exclaims, "Wou't you please to alight?"
While, from the coach-top, by the ladder, each man
Gets down as he pleases,—that is, as he can.

Ah! Jerry! how nobler a prospect engages
The wight who ascends our American stages!
The coachman (I should say "the driver") takes care
To sit, as he ought, cheek by jowl with the fare.
No springs prop the body; the sides of the coach
Are open to let any trade-wind approach.
The roof is supported by six wooden shanks,
The passengers sit upon plain wooden planks,
And the horses, quite civilly, kept down their jumps
To let me in, clambering over their rumps.
Your bowling-green roads, water'd well by trustees,
Are merely constructed for safety and ease;
You "run on the nail," so decidedly dry,
You are puzzled to know if you ride, swim, or fly.
How different our practice! here *Nature* displays
Her steepest of stiles, and her roughest of ways.
O'er pebbles like rocks, and o'er Brobdignag logs,
The up-and-down vehicle swings, dives, and jogs.
This saves introductions, a mere waste of labour,
It brings every man *tête-à-tête* with his neighbour,
And makes him, however at starting unwilling,
As smooth, ere he parts, as a George the Third shilling.

We dined on the road upon junks of boil'd yam,
Beef, apple-pie, cabbage, potatoes, and ham.
A man in a corner ate beef and horse-radish;
I told him I reckon'd his roads rather baddish.
"Roads?" answer'd the sage, 'twixt a croak and a squall,
"I guess we had rather have no roads at all.
When first they were dug, we were mightily *roil'd*,
The president's sport, I remember we spoil'd:
We bore off his sagots, hand-barrow, and clay,
And took off by night what he laid on by day.
You don't seem to answer me, Mister; mayhap
You're strange in these parts; a new salt-water chap:
Where d'ye *keep*? What a face! Oh, it is not yet tann'd;
Have you been here a *lengthy* time, old one? How's land?"

These questions, I own, made me simper and stammer:
I wish you would let me have Cobbett on Grammar:

He lived in Long Island, and surely must teach
 The English America's eight parts of speech.
 Do send it me soon, for I feel at a loss ere I
 Dive in that patriot's Columbian glossary.

For want of that key, how I sigh when I miss
 The *wit* that is lock'd up in caskets like this—
 "What's your daughter's name?"—"Jane."—"Have you
 din'd?"—"Yes, a *craw* full."
 "I've an item of that."—"Ay?"—"I hope she's not *awful*."
 "Is your son his own *boss*?"—"Yes, he *keeps* by that *hedge*."
 "How's his health?"—"Mighty *grand*, and his spirits are
 kedge !
 He bought his own *store* by an *elegant* trick,
 At a *lag*."—"How's his bus'ness?"—"Progressively *slick*."
 "Tom's *done up*, I guess; but he wa'n't much to blame."
 "How's Billy?"—"Clear'd out."—"What an *almighty*
 shame!"
 "I'll bet you a *cent*. he recovers his station."
 "Guess how much he owes me?"—"Ten dollars?"—"Tar-
 nation!"
 "My tea is too weak: I am never so *spry*
 As when I've a *raft* of good tea."—"No, nor I."
 "Ma'am, where does your young one *hang out*?"—"Doctor
 Tebb's.
 They put him last week in his *abbs* and his *ebbs*.
 They say the *young shaver* has got 'em by heart."
 "Then he takes to his learning?"—"Yes, *awfully smart*."

What a pity it is, that your poor British caitiffs
 Don't learn how to talk of our elegant natives.
 These flowers of speech, and these graces of style,
 Have not yet cross'd o'er to your desolate isle.
 Deprived of a tutor to point out the wit
 Of these spritely sallies, dumb-founded I sit,
 Like a Tooley-street clerk in the Opera pit!
 Up and down, at an inn, while the mercantile throng
 Are stretching their legs, (much already too long,)
 Like a cork in a mill-dam, I bibbety-bob it,
 Without mast or rudder: so pray send me Cobbett.

You say that you're thinking to emigrate too,
 And ask me to tell you what course to pursue;
 I'll answer your question by questioning you.
 But, Jerry, I pray, while you take, keep a hint
 I'm ruin'd if ever it gets into print,

Can you ride in a cart when the weather is foggy ?
 Can you get, every night, not quite tipsy, but groggy ?
 If wet, at the fire of an inn can you flit
 Round and round, to get dry, like a goose on a spit ?
 In telling a tale can you ponder and prose ?
 Can you spit thro' your teeth ? Can you talk thro' your nose ?
 Can you sit out the second-hand tragical fury
 Of emigrant players, discarded from Drury ?
 Can you place Poet Barlow above Poet Pope ?
 Can you wash, at an inn, without towel or soap ?
 Can you shut either eye to political knavery ?
 Can you make your white liberty mix with black slavery ?
 Can you spit on the carpet and smoke a cigar ?
 If not, my dear Jeremy, stay where you are.

LETTER VI.

MISS SABRINA BARROW TO MISS FANNY FADE.

Reminiscences of Ring-dropping.—“*Parcius junctas quatiunt fenestras.*”—Lady Harriet Butler and Miss Ponsonby.—Emperor Charles.—Invocations to American Independence.—Bohea and Souchong.—Generals Washington and Burgoyne.—Niagara.—Lord Cornwallis.—Colossus at Rhodes.—American Authors.—Mr. Southey's Fingers.—Belzoni in a Boat.—The Bonassua.—Titans in Type.—Eastbourne and Kirk, booksellers.—Parr's Wig.—Liberty Hall.—Literature neat as imported.—London Booksellers.—Poets at Wapping.

My gentle copartner, astride on a Muse,
 To charge Phœbus' heights at the head of the Blues ;
 Who, with thy Sabrina, the beaten *church* path,
 A summer at Brighton, a winter at Bath,
 An autumn at Tunbridge, ring-tilting, hast trod,
 By the will-o'-wisp light of the torch-bearing god ;
 Since suitors more sparingly tap at our windows,
 And Cupid cares for us no more than a pin does,
 And man, fickle man, is as false as Iscariot :
 Let me be Miss Ponsonby, thee Lady Harriet :
 Like them, fly from Paphos, its scandals and snarls,
 Abjuring two crowns, like the Emperor Charles,
 And smile, like two mariners tost upon dry land—
 But first read this letter ; it comes from York Island.

The first thing I did, at New York, was to stop
 At the door of a well-looking bookseller's shop.
 "O realm!" I exclaim'd to myself, "proudly free,
 Who, in seventy-five, spurn'd the tax on bohea,
 Who, led on by Washington, sounded the gong
 Of Mars, with the war-cry of 'Death or souchong !'
 Who *plus* in adversity, *minus* in coin,
 Yet caught in a trap the redoubted Burgoyne,
 Bade loud Niagara repeat war's alarms,
 And forced Lord Cornwallis to lay down his arms.
 Now striding o'er seas, like the giant of Rhodes,
 Of whom there's a very good likeness at Coado's,
 In arts, as in arms, thou art doubtless full grown,
 And happy in verse and in prose of thine own.
 Some females are thine, who, with quill fleet as Gurney's,
 Out-publish our Edgeworths, and Opies, and Burneys ;
 Some western Sir Walters, some quakers in drab,
 Who write home-heroics much better than Crabbe ;
 Some Southey's whose fingers no blisters environ,
 Not having yet handled a red-hot Lord Byron ;
 Some Anna Marins, like her of Thames Ditton :
 I wonder their names never reach'd us in Britain.
 Ye bards, who stalk over these mountainous glebes,
 With heads twice as big as young Memnon's at Thebes,
 (Which cost brave Belzoni, who went in a boat,
 Such trouble and money to set it afloat :)
 Ye poets, whose Pegasus galloping pass us,
 As big and as bluff as the London Bonassus :
 Ye Broblygnag, trampling our Lilliput tribes,
 Atlantic sky-proppers, Leviathan scribes,
 Goliaths in print ; how I long for your works"—
 So saying, I stept into *Eastbourne and Kirk's*.

The man of the shop, in a buzz wig like Parr's,
 Sat kicking the counter and smoking cigars :
 He saw us approach, with a gape and a stare,
 But never once offered to reach me a chair.
 Papa, as astonish'd I drew on my shawl,
 Said, "Never mind, child, this is Liberty-hall."
 To all my objections this hint put a stop :
 But, Fanny, the next time I go to a shop,
 With Liberty *parlour* I mean to make bold,
 For Liberty-hall is uncommonly cold.
 I civilly said, "if you please, Mr. Kirk,
 I want some good *native American* work."

" Good native ! " he cried with a grin, " yonder rows,
 I guess, show you all I have got ; look at those."
 I felt as amaz'd when I look'd at their backs,
 As if you had chopp'd off my head with an axe !
 Ye Colburns, ye Murrays, whose wares glide so fleet
 From your counters in Marlbro' and Albemarle Street ;
 Ye Rivington brothers, ye Longmans, whose Co.
 Would reach, if pulled out, half the length of " the Row,"
 Suspend, for a while, what ye part with at high rates,
 Your Sardanapali, your Cains, and your Pirates,
 And list, while my muse is obliged to confess
 What springs from this *native* American press.
 The Shipwreck by Falconer, Poems by Tickell,
 Swift's Lemuel Gulliver, Peregrine Pickle,
 Tom Brown, the Old Bachelor, Brodum on Chyle,
 Moll Flanders, Charles Phillips's Emerald Isle,
 Hugh Trevor, Theatrical Album, Tighe's Psyche,
 The Bruiser, or Memoirs of Pig, christened Ei Key,
 Little Jack, George Ann Bellamy, Fielding's Tom Jones,
 The Family Shakspeare cut down from Malone's ;
 Hunt's Radical Coffee, or Dregs at the Top,
 Webbe Hall's Hint to Farmers to look to their crop,
 John Bunyan, Wat Tyler, and Hone's Slap at Slop !

" What ! " cried I amazed, " have you *no* bards who court
 The muse ? " — " No, not one ; what we want we import.
 At present we think of pounds, shillings, and pence,
 Time enough for belles lettres a hundred years hence :
 Our people, I guess, have employment enough
 In cocoa, rum, cotton, tobacco, and snuff,
 In digging, land-clearing, board-sawing, log-chopping—
 Pray how many poets have *you* got at *Wapping* ? "

But papa is come home from the city hotel,
 And asks for Sabrina ; so, Fanny farewell !

S. B.

LETTER VII.

MR. RICHARD BARROW TO MR. ROBERT BRIGGS.

Farther Specimens of Fancy Rhetoric—America angry, and why—
Affecting Memoir of Major André—Tom Pipes and Peregrine
Pickle—Disinterment of Paine by Cobbet—Quotation from
King Lear—Bystanders in dudgeon—Cobbett's Reasons satis-
factory—The Tyrant Mezentius—Fashion spreads—London
Radicals disinter each other—American Tax upon Grave-digging
—Its financial Effects.

Bob, Jonathan's *queer*: he is *mizzled* a ration,
He does not half stomach a late exhumation;
Some *culls*, here, have taken to grubbing the clay
That tucks up the body of Major André.
With you resurrectionists, that is not very
Unusual, who dig up as fast as you bury,
And charge iron coffins the devil's own fee—
(Lord Stowel there buried the poor Patentee,)
But here, Bob, the *gabies* have not come to that.
Would you fancy it? Jonathan's yet such a *flat*
As to think, when a corpse has been waked by a train
(Of mourners, 'tis wicked to wake it again.

Methinks you're for asking me who André was?
Book-learning and you, Bob, arn't cronies, that 's pos.)
I'll tell you, André, urged by arguments weighty,
Went out to New York Anno Domini 80.
He quitted the land of his fathers to bleed,
In war, all along of his love for Miss Sneyd;
But, finding his name not enroll'd in a high line
(Of rank for promotion, he took to the *Spy-line*.
He sew'd in his stocking a letter from Arnold:
A sentinel *nab'd* it—why didn't the darn hold?
(Or why, when he stitch'd it up, did not he put
The letter between his sole-leather and foot!
By mashing it, then, he had 'scaped all disaster,
As Pipes mash'd the letter of Pickle his master.
Within the lines taken, a prisoner brought off,
They troubled him with a line more than he thought of;
For, finding the young man's despatches not *trim*,
'To shorten my story, Bob, they despatch'd him.

He long might have slept—with the *ci-devant* crew,
 As soundly as *here* other buried men do;
 But fashion, as somebody says on the stage,
 In words and in periwigs will have her rage.
 The notion of bringing dead people away
 Began upon Paine, and went on to Andér;
 The Yankees thought Cobbett was digging for *dibs*,
 But when out he trundled a thigh-bone and ribs,
 They did not half like it; and cried with a groan,
 “Since poor Tom’s a-cold, why not leave him alone?”
 “I mean, Sirs,” said Cobbett, who stood on the bank,
 “To take Mister Paine, in a box, to Sir Frank;
 ’Twill show that I’m not quite unworthy of trust
 For this way, at least, I can *down with the dust*.
 I next mean to ask of ‘The Powers that be,’
 To let Tom go home, as he fled, *duty-free*,
 And pick John Bull’s heart by a skeleton key.
 Thus England may for her past errors atone,
 By making America bone of her bone.”
 This argument *told*; cheek-by-jowl off they sped,
 Like the *friends* of Mezentius, one living, one dead.

The Fashion’s afloat; and now, stop it who can!
 Your Liberty-bucks will be *boned* to a man.
 Already young Watson’s for digging up Priestley,—
 Which Sabby and Lyddy denominate beastly,
 Sir Bob, of the Borough, has learnt the spade’s art right,
 To dig up, at Midsummer, old Major Cartwright.
 How sharp after Waithman looks Alderman Wood!
 And Waithman, I know, would have Wood if he could.
 Sir Francis, at Putney, will scratch like a rook,
 In the field where he *doubled-up* Johnny Horne Tooke.
 Gale Jones has an eye to Hone’s carcase, and Hone’s
 Quite on the *qui vive* for a dig at Gale Jones,
 Who’s “not by no means” in a hurry to rise,
 Remembering the adage—“Lie still if you’re wise.”
 And Wooller, with pick-axes, cracking his shell-wall,
 Will nab the *quid restat* of Lecturer Thelwall.
 Churchyards will be ‘tato-fields—two-pence a pound;
 They won’t leave a radical plant under ground.
 For my part, I don’t like the scheme, Mr. Briggs,
 I’ll tell it to Congress; I will, *please the pigs*.
 To men of my *gumption*, you can’t think how sad’s
 The thought of this grand resurrection of Rads;
 For if *all* the great dead-wigs thus bolt from below,
 Who knows what may happen when you and I go?

I'll prove that a tax upon bones will atone
 For the tax on new rum, at a dollar a bone.
 Nay, I hope they'll extend it to mattock and spade,
 And make resurrection a contraband trade.
 The Act, when once past by Dick Barrow's assistance,
 Will make you *rum customers* "keep your yard's distance,"
 From live or dead nuisances keep the coast clear,
 And dub it "not lawful to shoot rubbish here."

R. B.

LETTER VIII.

MISS LYDIA BARROW TO MISS KITTY BROWN.

Reminiscence of White Conduit House—Islington Wells versus Tunbridge—Sir Solomon's Song—Hugh Middleton and John Gilpin—Cowper and the New River Company—Bentham, Buonaparte, and Accum—Lydia turns Reformer—American Ladies dancing Moneymusk—They mistake James Paine for Tom—Episodical Eulogy of the former—Ball at City Hotel, New York—"All honourable Men"—Bear and Fiddle.

DEAR Kate, you remember Sir Solomon Souse,
 Who gave the tea-party at White Conduit House ;
 And swore, while we sat in the box of Apollo,
 That Islington waters beat Tunbridge Wells hollow.
 Papa, he, and we, leaving others to bowl,
 Walk'd out, toward the Wells, just by way of a stroll ;
 He stopp'd us all three at the Middleton's Head,
 Then pointed aloft to the sign-post, and said,
 "The hooded old man, who is swinging up there,
 Set off, spade in hand, and took water to Ware :
 As Hercules valiant, he treated with scorn
 Dame Prudence, and took River Thames by the horn.
 John Gilpin, the Cit, who in calico dealt,
 And rode with two full bottles under his belt,
 Set off, whip in hand, in old Middleton's rear,
 But kept the Cheap-side, where the Knight kept the dear.
 Both wild-goose adventures, equally rash,
 The Cit lost his dinner, the Knight lost his cash ;
 Will Cowper got many a pound by the first,
 The last has in gold quench'd the Company's thirst,
 Who now gain a hundred per cent. by his wealth,
 And don't even drink in the water his health.

'Tis thus that projectors the game always give in,
 And fools run up houses—for wise men to live in.
 See sail to the Wells yonder pleasure-bound crew,
 All talk of Grimaldi, none think of Sir Hugh.
 Friend Barrow, take warning; keep snug in the storm;
 Cajole men and welcome; but never reform;
 With Bentham bewilder, with Buonaparte frighten,
 With Accum astonish; do all but enlighten;
 Who aims at enlightening, only out-does
 An ophthalmic drug to a nation of moles."

This sermon, like most other sermons, dear Kitty,
 Went bolt through both ears of papa—more's the pity!
 With politics still he would make his old fuss,
 And settling the nation, he unsettled us;
 For, deeming long parliaments snares to entrap 'em,
 He made us put up with short commons at Clapham.

Popt down in my Album, Sir Solomon's song,
 Slept sound as a sexton, and might have slept long;
 But lately I've taken it down from the shelf
 To read, for—I'm turning *Reformer* myself!
 Nay, don't cry "Lord bless us!"—I don't mean to roar
 'Gainst cradle cotillions, like Miss Hannah More,
 Nor leave my own fish by Grimalkin to die,
 To dress other people's, like good Mrs. Fry.
 I leave hearts and heads to Reformers like those,
 I only, dear girl, revolutionize toes.
 Kitty Brown, would you think it? I don't say the fault's in
 Themselves; but the girls here know nothing of waltzing.
 I found them in *Money-musk* kicking their heels,
 And when I named *Paine*, and his set of Quadrilles,
 (I wonder what planet some people come from,)
 The poor ignoramusses thought I meant *Tom*.
 How could, gentle *James*, the New York women be
 So dull as to mix that *staymaker* with thee?
 What thought Brother Richard, as usual, out-plumps
 A pun, and declares that you both deal in *Jumps*—
 Shalt thou, who 'midst negus and tapers of wax,
 Art christen'd, *par excellence*, Paine of Almack's:
 Who set, to an entre-chat—*La ci la mano*,
 And jigg'd the dead march on an open piano—
 Shalt thou be mix'd up with that infidel Turk,
 Who scribbled a pamphlet in answer to Burke?
 Let *White* print his rival *La Poule* and *Trenise*,
 And dedicate humbly to Mrs. Charles Rees;

Let *Hart*, like Phil Astley, make horses turn dancers,
And play *Zitti Zitti* to Hussars and Lancers.
Fear nothing; cut capers; be frisky and merry;
Not even *Musard*, with his Duchesse de Berry,
His *Traversez*, *chassez*, *dechassez*, *La Chaine*,
Shall push from the music-stand gentle James Paine.
Long, long shalt thou flourish, the King of Quadrilles,
And when, over Styx, 'midst the virtuous of heels,
Thou 'rt borne to the meadows Elysian, with you
The daughter of Ceres shall dance a *pas deux*;
While *Hermes* shall lend you his feather-bound shoes,
And whirl you to bliss in a Russian *sautouse*.

And now, my dear Kate, for the best news of all;
We have worried papa into giving a ball.
As soon as he squeez'd out a sad "Very well,"
Dick hired the rooms at the City Hotel.
We danced until midnight on Saturday last,
And, spite of a headach, I tell you what pass'd.
The Natives, who came about half-after eight,
Were duly announced by their titles of State.
Their Honours Mat Mite and Aminadab Mum,
The one dealt in cheese, and the other in Rum.
His Honour Ben Block, who contracts with the Fleet,
And keeps a mahogany yard in State-street;
His Honour Luke Lambert, a huge lump of clay,
Who luckily happens to live in *Broadway*.
They all seem'd amazingly shy of plain Mister,
Which made Brother Richard observe to my sister,
That though they hate titles as much as O'Connor,
They cling like a leech to the sound of "Your Honour."
And now for my dress—but my paper 's scrawl'd through,
So no more at present.—Dear Kitty, adieu!

L. B.

LETTER IX.

MISS LYDIA BARROW TO MISS KITTY BROWN.

lineation of a Ball-Room French Dress—Essay on Hair-dressing—Miss Kelly and Miss Foote—The Temple of Janus—Lydia with two faces—Consternation occasioned by her French Dress—High Blood—The Macheaths, the Locketts, and the Dawsons—Waltzing Catastrophes.

r dress—you'd be vex'd if I did not put that in—
 y dress was a round skirt, of a gossamer satin ;
 ith one row of Builloné next to the hem,
 colour the blush of Golconda's dark gem.
 n yards of red ribbon were pucker'd in bows,
 space equi-distant, like soldiers in rows ;
 e bows had short endings with rich silver tips,
 all twenty-eight, with three more at the hips.
 t Fashion would dub me insane, did I miss
 bring to your view my *corsage-d-la Suisse*.
 was velvet in substance, in hue the true ruby,
 hich many attempt to procure, and but few buy.
 is match'd, like two peas, with the white satin sleeves
 hose Valenciennes lace was adjusted in *creves*.
 y hair was remarkably killing, with posies
 Coquillicot ribbon, like full-blowing roses :
 t frizz'd, poodle-fashion, like Madame Corelli's,
 t tied in three pig-tails, like Miss Fanny Kelly's :—
 was dress'd at the poll just the same as the forehead—
 iss Foote set the fashion : papa calls it horrid.
 e says, in that "right-about-face" mode to stir,
 all might well in a beauty like her ;
 t my pretty bald pate to agony stirs him,
 e swears it will hook in no lover but *Spurzheim* :—
 hile Richard, as saucy as Coriolanus,
 is nick'd-named my temple the temple of Janus.
 ith my necklace Diogenes' self could not quarrel,
 r that, with the ear-rings and cross, were plain coral.
 r criss-cross white ribbon my instep was hid ;
 y shoes were white satin, my gloves were white kid.

Including the sarsnet, with honeycomb flounces,
 'The whole of my dress weigh'd exactly three ounces.
 Thus, graced by thy genius, divine Mrs. Bell,
 I entered the ball at the City hotel.

Conceive—what your Liddy wants words to express—!
 The gape and the stare at my beautiful dress !
 His Honour Mat Mite, with a tooth like a tusk,
 Who just then was kicking poor old *Money musk*,
 Stood fix'd, with his partner, Miss Firkin, from Bristol,
 As if he and she had been shot with a pistol.
 Miss Dawson, who led down the middle so far,
 That her motion had more of the comet than star,
 (While Lambert, her partner, made all the house rock,)
 Sat down on a form to recover the shock.
 'The folks, I should tell you, were tip-tops, high mettlers,
 And traced their descent from original settlers,
 Their family trees, without mildew or blight,
 Were planted ere Botany Bay saw the light.
 A lady in blue, with a reticule pocket,
 A great great grand-daughter of Gay's Lucy Locket,
 Stood first in the set ; and, with black and white teeth,
 The girl next to her was Miss Sally Macheath :
 And next, in a necklace of coral, stood Zoë,
 The copper descendant of Prince Po-wee-to-wee.
 The fourth, and the smartest of all, to my fancy,
 Was foresaid Miss Dawson, descended from Nancy.
 " Won't you dance ?" said red Zoë, with courteous advances :
 While Richard and I answered, " Not country dances :
 On *them* we decidedly turn our two backs :—
 Quadrilles are the only things done at Almack's."
 " Quadrilles," cried Miss Dawson, " we'll dance by and by :
 I guess that we dance them *progressingly spry*."

But oh, let no novice Miss Dawson put trust in !
 'The waltz we began with was Lieber Augustin.
 First, Richard and I, like a proper-taught pair,
 Whirl'd round in quick time, clearing sofa and chair :
 One hand firmly grappled his shoulder, the other
 Hung gracefully down, far apart from my brother.
 My eyes " loved the ground," that I might not be giddy :
 How like Mercandotti spun elegant Liddy !
 Thus, thrice round the ball-room, without pause or flurry,
 I show'd how we managed these matters in Surrey.
 Not so Miss Macheath : her eyes leering, winking,
 She soon was quite giddy, and felt herself sinking.

To prop tumblers, anything served as a handle,
 So she grasp'd, at hap-hazard, a fat tallow candle.
 Miss Dawson spun next, and in spinning turn'd pale,
 Her fist, swinging round like a countryman's flail,
 (A regular thresher!) gave Washington Read
 Such a dose in the face, that it made his nose bleed.
 This, joined to shin-kicking, and treading down heels,
 Bade poor murder'd waltzes give place to quadrilles.
 But oh, such quadrilles! such a wild hurly-burly!
 Every step for the music too late or too early!
 A separate Letter the remnant must tell;—
 So here, for the present, I bid you farewell.

L. B.

LETTER X.

TO MISS SABRINA BARROW TO MISS FANNY FADE.

Webb Hall on Average Crops—A Vision—Mrs. Elizabeth Carter
 —Tattooing among the Cherokees—Blues past and present—A
 Trip to Burlington-street in Medea's Car—Readings—King
 Lear and his Daughters—Mrs. Bartley—Baroness Baulk in the
 Straw—Joanna Southcote—Announcement of Visitors—Blue
 Babel—"Chaos come again"—Dame Carter dips into Ovid—
 Dragons fly back to New York—Finale from John Bunyan.

As lately I studied, in Eastbourn's back shop,
 The thoughts of WEBB HALL on an average crop,
 The God who strews poppies wherever corn grows,
 Soon rocked thy Sabrina to gentle repose;
 And brought, while his pinion flagg'd heavily o'er me,
 In visions, ELIZABETH CARTER before me,
 With napkin-bound forehead, the same as of yore,
 When grave Epictetus, at half-after-four,
 Awaked her to study, with vigour heroic,
 And do into English the mighty Greek Stoic.
 "Oh! choicest," she cried, "of Minerva's lean kine,
 The foremost blue buskin that tripp'd o'er the line,

To thin this rude sheepfold of national breeders,
 By founding a college of Virgin Seceders :
 Compared with thy wide-waisted glory, how narrow
 The honours of Cortez, Alvarez, Pizarro !
 With virtue that no son of Venus can bribe,
 And one bosom less than the Amazon tribe.
 Secure may'st thou laugh at the loud or deep curses
 Of mate-widow'd mothers and out-of-date nurses.
 Spurn Hymen : read Malthus ; be firm at thy post ;
 Live chaste as the Queen whose pre-nomen I boast,
 And bear this device on thy memory's crest—
 " The Blue of Columbia, the Star of the West."
 " O ! virgin," I answer'd, " I fear while I woo,
 I dread while I seek this investment of Blue.
 The growing-up girls in yon Cherokee nation
 Are known to flinch under the blue indentation.
 I dread, though I honour, the end I'm pursuing.
 Pray, is it not painful to feel, like tattooing ?"
 " Not so," cried the Sibyl, " no cares 'tend the vow ;
 It might be so once, but it isn't so now.
 No more, in the regions of Blue, is a rout,
 A prim semicircle of tea and turn out.
 'Tis now a mere chaos, of that no ill pattern,
 Assorted of yore by the first-born of Saturn,
 Would you worship the muse in her modish retreat ?
 Behold, to conduct us to Burlington-street,
 Medea has proffer'd her dragon-drawn car."
 She spoke.—Up we mounted, and, soaring afar,
 Alighted in town after ten minutes talk,
 And knock'd at the mansion of BARONESS BAULK.
 " A little foot-page" oped the latch with a snap,
 In a livery of blue, and a chimney-pot cap.
 We found by a general " Hush ! hush !" from the crowd,
 The first *Entertainment* was reading aloud !
 " Come here," said my lady, " 'tis Lear and his daughter.
 " James, bring Mrs. Bartley a tumbler of water.
 Now, Goneril, turn the old king out of doors."
 " I can't Ma'am." — " What hinders you ?" — " Somebody
 snores."
 " There ! now he's awake ; silent still ?—What's the
 matter ?"
 " I cannot be heard—the whole street's in a clatter."
 But see, yonder wagon, that noise mayn't disturb,
 Deposits ten trusses of straw on the kerb.
 'Tis spread : rolling urchins their merriment lisp,
 And toss to the firmanent wisp after wisp.

The knocker is muffled ; the gossips agree,
My lady's as lord-loving ladies would be.
Parturient at eighty ! how will the town talk,
Dame Southcote was nothing to Baroness Baulk !

King Lear now deposed, and the muffle torn down,
A rat-a-tat 'larum awakes half the town ;
And the little foot-page, from his box at the entry,
Is hoarse with up-bawling the names of the gentry.
Lord Cherokee Chin-tuft, a col'nel of Lancers ;
Lord Booby Bolero, who dines the French dancers !
Sir Brown-Jones-Brown-Jones, in a postilion's shirt ;
Lord Botncer, Count Squint'em, and Lady Jane Flirt ;
Three gentlemen glee-singers ! Mr. Belzoni !
Lord Strutt, with a blue ribbon under his bow-knee.
The Viscount, who never did much good or much ill,
Except in his dressing at Martin Van-Butchel.
The pie-ball'd Egyptian, half white and half brown ;
The wonderful Swiss, who was hang'd and cut down ;
Massa Sambo, who knows about West India law ;
The barefooted Beggar, who sleeps upon straw ;
A black-bearded Persian in crimson ; and, ah me !
Dress'd like other people, plain Mr. Salami ;
With Knights of the Cross, an uncountable fry,
Bestudded with stars, like the nights of July.

Then enter'd full thirty abjurers of man,
Each born in a bibbety-bobbing sedan ;
Whose tongues from non-use were not suffer'd to rust.
All subjects were touch'd upon—none were discuss'd.
“ You've seen the Laplanders.—Where's Mathews ?—Poor
Perry !
“ Scott wrote them ; I know it—Who told you so ? Terry.
“ A song, Mr. Broadhurst—Hush ! ‘ Silent, O'Moyle,’
“ I'm told that they really dine on train oil.—
“ Have you sold out your Fives ?—No, I'm not in a hurry.
“ *Me adsum qui feci*—Lord Byron to Murray.—
“ Lady Crimson, you've got something black on your cheek.
“ Camporesi and Ronzi de Begni don't speak !
“ What's o'clock ?—Hampton Court ? Yes ; we dined at the
Toy.
“ I don't like the Pirate so well as Rob Roy.
“ Dear me ! how excessively pretty ! Red candles !
“ Is Lillibullero Rossini's ? No ; Handel's.

"I'll hold by the brass balustrades.—So will I.

"Not going? Yes!—When?—Glad to see you—Good b'ye."

Amid this chaotic exhaustion of lungs,
Her ladyship's fingers moved brisk as their tongues.
She poked a poll-parrot, to add to the din,
She made every Mandarin nod nose and chin;
She kick'd the coal-scuttle, she scraped up the cinders,
She made a Bard bellow an ode (one of Pindar's),
She strumm'd a piano, and mix'd flats and sharps,
Nine Genevese snuff-boxes set up their harps;
She beat, on a salt-box, a rat-a-tat tap,
She cuff'd the blue page in the chimney-pot cap.

KIT-CAT SKETCHES.

NO. I.

IN AND OUT OF LOVE.

VE is local. Many a man "owns the soft impeachment," as tenderly as Mrs. Malaprop herself, in a small room with nothing to listen to but a mill-stream,—and dreams not of Cupid in Waterloo Place: and many a maiden melts at addresses at the sea-side, which she would have treated with disdain in the centre of this great metropolis. If the votaries of Hymen deny my position, I will establish it by two living illustrations.

Mr. Templeton follows the law as an attorney and solicitor in Gray's Inn. He may generally be seen sitting on the fourth bench of the pit at the Opera House, listening from the orchestra. He touches the violin—often and in singing rather piques himself upon his talent.

Miss Brockman is the daughter of Mr. Giles Brockman—a policy broker, living in one of those remote squares, (I think they call it Mecklenburg,) that, according to the most recent discoveries, lie in a cluster, like the Cyclades, northward of the British Museum. Mr. Brockman accidentally discovered the square in question, when his gig was towed several hundred leagues out of its course by an affrighted steed, on a voyage along the Great Road. Finding the air temperate, our adventurer, in imitation of the surviving mutineers from the *Bounty*, established a colony there, which those who have visited it lately describe as being in a flourishing condition.

The Templetons,—I mean the father, mother, and two sisters of Tom—reside in Bloomsbury Square, and, when in town, are apt to hold their heads above the Brockmans, on account of the superior gentility of their place of residence. I rather think they are right. Bloomsbury Square was ever looked upon by me with tenderness and respect. I remember, when a boy, seeing the late Duke of Bedford turn into his residence there, in a travelling chariot drawn by four horses. The mansion of his grace stood on the north side of the square: it was enclosed within a wall that extended the whole length of that side of the square, with a stone sphynx at either end of it. The house itself, at least the outside of it, was, to be sure, in a shabby dilapidated condition; but it commanded a charming view behind of the Highgate and Hampstead hills, with a side-glance at Baltimore House, then in the fields, and afterwards the residence of Sir Vicary Gibbs. It has brick and mortar enough in its vicinity now to build half a hundred Towers of Babel. Here too dwelt the celebrated Lord Mansfield, the present earl's *great* uncle in two senses, not to mention the late Lord Ellenborough, and several puisne judges, who have since thought fit to migrate towards the terra incognita of Russell Square. I must own I liked Bloomsbury Square better before the introduction of the statue of Charles Fox. Not that I am a party-man, but the sight of it generates several anti-classical associations about the India Bill, the Coalition, and the duel with Mr. Adam; and the patriot being, moreover, in a sitting position, it is to be inferred that he is in no haste to go. But all this is foreign to the point at issue.

Tom Templeton and Jane Brockman went with their respective parents to Broadstairs. Tom and Jane met, every day, at the one or the other of the two libraries. Upon these occasions they conversed frequently on the colour and condition of the ocean, which, as they have since confessed, appeared to them “sometimes smooth and sometimes rough,” as the late Mr. Dignum used to say in No Song no Supper. They would sometimes

look at the boundless expanse of waters, and find it suddenly darkened as though a cloud was passing over it (perhaps a cloud ~~was~~ passing over it): upon which occurrence Tom would take occasion to say, that it reminded him of the shadows that darken the sunshine of life—a sentiment which Jane would embody in her green morocco bound album with a green padlock, the key whereof was appendant to her necklace. At other times Tom would enact deputy donkey-driver, and urge Jane's long-eared quadruped along the cliffs towards Ramsgate, in a narrow path, bounded by a hedge of the cliff on its left.

This recreation, however, was stopped by the following catastrophe. Miss Brockman, notwithstanding her education at a very polite ladies' academy within three doors of the Parr's head at Camberwell, could not in speaking avoid a whim she had of cutting off the letter H from its natural position, and transplanting it in front of one of the five vowels. Thus, according to her, a hat was an *ah*, an apple a *happle*, an otter a *hotter*, and an owl a *howl*. Miss Brockman was one morning riding on her Jerusalem pony, in her nankeen pelisse and green veil, Tom following with whipchord, when she thought that her swain was driving rather perilously towards the ocean. "Nearer the edge!" exclaimed Miss Brockman; "you are too near the *hedge*." Tom Templeton, believing that the lady expressed her real sentiments, and not dreaming that she meant him to seek the hedge, and eschew the edge, drove the donkey so close to the brow of the cliff, that the ground actually began to crack landward of the lovers; and had not the quadruped's superior wisdom induced him to swerve inward, the whole party would have made a most abrupt descent upon the heads of the shell-picking urchins on the shore.

This catastrophe drove the parties in future to the beach, where they would stand for hours together with a telescope, under an impending rock, or in an excavation a few paces further on, where they communed in a sort of Dido and Æneas fashion; she looking through the

glass, and wondering whether the vessel which she beheld in the horizon was coming from Madrid or Vienna, and he passing the sand with his right foot, until it assumed the moisture and consistence of a bread-pudding.

Gunpowder like this could not long remain without exploding. Accordingly Thomas Templeton and Jane Brockman fell in love. Broadstairs is in fact a capital station for falling in love. I strongly advise all matrons with growing-up daughters, to go thither in preference to Margate or Ramsgate. The double pier and steam-vessels in the former place, and the view of the Downs from the latter, occupy the mind too much : there is no room for the tender passion. But at Broadstairs, after a young man and maiden have eaten their morning prawns, and taken their morning yawns, they have nothing to do but to fall in love till eleven o'clock at night. There is no raffle at the libraries, and the Tract Society meetings only occur once a month. Our young solicitor's love-letter was in the words and figures following :

“ DEAR MISS BROCKMAN,

“ My heart has given me notice of set off. It attempted to sue out *ne exeat*, but failed. Your image, aided by a *posse comitatús* of accomplishments, has entered and taken possession of my bosom, after ejecting the aforesaid tenant. Think not that I am pleading a sham plea. I can assure you, my passion savours of the reality. It is my wish that you and I should be jointly and severally bound by Hymen in a fidelity bond to Cupid, determinable nevertheless on the demise of either party. I meant to have written to you yesterday ; but my ink ran up and down, and secreted itself in my new patent inkstand. Pray, accept a declaration *nunc pro tunc*, and plead thereto issuably in four days : and believe that my attachment, unlike those in the Mayor's Court, is incapable of being set aside on the coming in of Answer. Dated this 20th day of September, 1825.

“ Your loving friend,

“ THOMAS TEMPLETON.”

This was the first love-letter that Jane Brockman had ever received. She hastened to copy it into her album, and then ran with the original to get it translated by her maiden aunt, Mrs. Sarah Brockman, who had brought down her portmanteau for a fortnight. The latter understood a little of law, having been sued for giving a wrong character to a maid-servant, and therefore explained to her niece that it was equivalent to an offer of marriage.

Jane, feeling the contagion of Ophelia's "love in idleness," was disposed to think it a good match. She had often heard Tom play a very respectable second with a Brobdignag fiddle, and therefore did not allow her imagination to place him in future as an absolute Spagnoletti, the leader of the legal band; but she had little doubt of his being Vice Chancellor; and a good second fiddle in an orchestra is no bad thing. Miss Brockman, the elder, was therefore deputed to break the matter to papa. Mr. Giles Brockman thought it a foolish affair, and wondered his sister could encourage any such nonsense, rating her rather severely for her officious interference.

Whilst affairs were in this train in the Brockman line, matters were going on in a somewhat similar way in the house of Templeton. Old Templeton had a maiden sister, one Mrs. Sarah Templeton, who, on being applied to by Tom, bustled over from Chapel Place, Ramsgate, in a covered fly, to canvass her brother in favour of his enamoured offspring.

"I wonder, sister," exclaimed the inhabitant of Bloomsbury Square, "that you can encourage such goings-on! I don't at all like those Brockmans. That daughter Jane of theirs is not at all to my fancy. Her eyes look two ways: I observed one of them yesterday morning in the library peeping at Tom, and the other leering upon a mustachioed officer in blue and silver, who pretended to be asking if "Matilda" was at home? "Matilda who, brother?" inquired Mrs. Sarah Templeton. "Oh I don't know who," rejoined the brother:

“it’s some woman in Italy, I believe, that ran away from her husband.”

It may (to adopt young Templeton’s phraseology) “not savour of the reality,” to allege that both Mr. Brockman and Mr. Templeton should have maiden sisters named Sarah. But the fact is so ; every family has a maiden aunt Sarah in it, commonly called my aunt Sally. I have read much of the crabbedness of old maids ; but I must own that, according to my experience, they are the best-tempered creatures living. The whole family, jointly and severally, send for them when there is any misery afloat, but are sadly apt to overlook them when matters go on smooth.

There were, in the present case, two aunt Sallys, who volunteered to encounter a very disagreeable business, purely to oblige their repective nephew and niece ; and they got nothing but abuse for their pains.

It is the same in all the families in the United Kingdom. If a matron lies in, a husband loses his wife, a young man owes money to his cossack trouser-maker, a girl is to be privately married, or an old man is to be publicly buried, my aunt Sally is sure to be sent for to partake of the festivity. George Robins is a very good stock obligee in all theatrical mishaps of the sort in question ; but, for the private purposes of life, my aunt Sally for my money. Britannia is at present in a ferment, owing to the failure of several of her London bankers ; and I feel extremely sorry that she has no aunt Sally to apply to.

Time now stole on, and the Templetons and the Brockmans returned from the sea-side to their London residences. No sooner had Miss Brockman taken a canter or two in the Albany Riding-house in the Regent’s Park, than she felt her love for Tom Templeton considerably on the wane.

I have already said love is local. A young man may be passable at Broadstairs, who is not to be spoken with at the corner of Portland Place. It is the same with every thing else. I have known many a prunella gownsman cut very respectable jokes at the assizes at Hereford, who could hardly open his mouth before their four lord-

ships *in banco*. It makes all the difference, whether a man plays Hamlet at Dunstable or at Drury.

Tom Templeton, too, on his return to Gray's Inn, found that answers in the exchequer, leases and releases, declarations in assumpsit, and gettings in of outstanding terms, not to mention Mazurier in Jacko, Madame Vestris in Don Giovanni, and Liston in Paul Pry, had a natural tendency to eradicate Jane Brockman from his *ci-devant* too susceptible bosom. Each felt miserable at the thoughts of the misery which a declaration of indifference would inflict upon the other.

At length each plucked up courage to plunge the fatal dagger. The two Aunt Sallys were employed to state the repulsion, as they had heretofore alleged the attraction. They met with suitable formality and circumlocution. They each alleged that our affections are not in our own power; that candour at present might save a world of misery hereafter, &c., &c.; and, to their mutual astonishment, found their notices received with mutual satisfaction. General releases were executed and exchanged; and I need not add, that all the blame for fostering the flame, and then casting ridicule and discredit upon the two families by being aiding and abetting in its extinguishment, fell upon the lean shoulders of the two Aunt Sallys.

KIT-KAT SKETCHES.

NO. II.

OLD HEADS ON YOUNG SHOULDERS.

UPON one of my days of infant innocence I lined my cousin Proby's hat with birdlime, out of revenge, because he had broken the central ornament in a string of bird's eggs, which, at that happy epoch of puerile simplicity,

I had purloined from certain nests in Hadley grove. The poor lad found his beaver as immovable as the plumed cap of the son of Maia; and much hot water and many screams were expended before it could be disjoined from his head. My mother was seriously angry; but my poor aunt Proby, mother to the victim aforesaid, as gentle a being as ever suffered a family to run wild upon the common of their own inclinations, exclaimed, "Well, well, never mind! he meant no harm; there is no putting old heads on young shoulders!"

My aunt's asseveration has, according to my subsequent experience, been qualified by two exceptions;—the one corporeal, and the other mental. 'The Countess of A—— has a pair of very juvenile looking shoulders, with a very wrinkled head screwed upon their apex. If you walk behind her, she seems twenty-two; accost her *vis-à-vis*, and she mounts to sixty. In that respect she is like the law—very well to follow, but very ill to confront.

The mental exception is one Smedley Jones, lately an articled clerk to an attorney—I beg his pardon, a solicitor—in Furnival's Inn, Holborn; but recently out of his time, and therefore qualified to kill game on his own account. He wears black half-gaiters, and is a member of the Philonomic Society; exhibits much wisdom, little whisker, and no shirt collar; simpers; makes a gentle bow at the close of every sentence, with his chin touching his left collar-bone; criticises the new law courts, wears lead-coloured gloves; affects a beaver with a broad brim; nods at the close of every sentence when the Court of Exchequer pronounces a judgment, by way of encouraging the three puisne barons; and carries his pantaloons to his tailor's in a blue bag that they may pass for briefs. There is a lame clerk in the 'Three per Cent. Consol Office at the Bank, with whom Smedley Jones appears to be on terms of considerable intimacy. I rather suspect that the motive of this conjunction is, that the latter may obtain private information with respect to certain funded property appertaining to certain widows and maidens, his attention to whom rises and falls

accordingly. It is an unquestionable fact, that whenever a young man rises, like Smedley Jones, upon his toes in walking waltzes with every-thick-ankled girl that would otherwise be a wall-flower for the whole evening; looks benevolently downward upon his own cheeks, sings a second at church, and boasts of belonging to no club; he may, to a certainty, be set down as one who means to let fly an arrow at Plutus through the Temple of Hymen.

It is quite edifying to meet Smedley Jones at a dinner-party. The first thing he does, on entering the drawing-room, is to take up a book with an air of no common sagacity. If it happen to be Woodstock, he smiles with an aspect of compassionate disdain, and informs the bystander that he objects to historical novels, and that he prefers going to the fountain-head, in Lord Clarendon and Bishop Burnet. Upon the appearance of the mistress of the mansion, he takes a seat by her on the sofa; but so near to its edge, that the slightest backward movement of that article of furniture would seat him where he ought to be. He smooths down the sand-coloured hair of the matron's accompanying offspring with an air of ineffable interest; inquires after dear Charles: hopes to see sweet little Emma: and ejaculates, "Oh, pray now," when mamma expresses a doubt as to her appearance. He then talks of the sea as beneficial to children, and recommends Worthing, because it has no cliff.

When dinner is announced, Smedley Jones looks sharply round for some female whose spine rather swerves from the perpendicular, aware that heiresses are seldom straight-backed; tucks her lean arm under his, and manœuvres to sit next to her at table. Whilst in the act of descending the stairs, our proprietor of an old head upon young shoulders takes due care that the tongue which vibrates in the mouth of it shall ejaculate, "What a capital house this is!" in accents sufficiently loud to be overheard by the master or mistress of the mansion. He dilutes his wine with water, to adapt it to his conversation; and enlarges upon the folly of the maxim, "a reformed rake makes the best husband." I

have heard him tell, nineteen times over, the anecdote of his uncle Major Flush, who, thirty years back, at a dinner with Sir Phelim O'Four-bottle, poured his claret into his boots, aware that they would stand a soaking better than the coats of his stomach. 'This gives Mr. Smedley Jones an opportunity of observing how different things are at present; with an addition, that one glass of wine at dinner, and two after it, should never be exceeded by any man who wishes to render himself acceptable to the ladies.

Mr. Jones belongs to a society for converting Captain Parry's Esquimaux, at the North Pole, from the errors of their ways. I have this fact from his own mouth, having had the misfortune to sit next but one to him at dinner, at old Spinsuit's, the Chancery barrister. The intervening individual was Miss Creek, of Upper Clapton, a white-visaged personage, whom the abovementioned lame clerk in the 'Three per Cent. Office has introduced to his acquaintance. I rather think Spinsuit has been instructed to pursue and settle their marriage articles. Miss Creek having retired with the rest of the ladies, my left flank was cruelly exposed. The old headsman accordingly brought his juvenile left shoulder forward, and occupied the vacant seat. He asked me if I did not think the Esquimaux at the North Pole "dark heathens;" I answered, not entirely so, because their whale blubber supplied them with oil for lamps. Mr. Smedley Jones stared at this, and added that his meaning was that they were poor unenlightened wanderers. I rejoined, "True, but that's Apollo's fault!"

Finding that he had a neighbour who was not to be dealt with metaphorically, Mr. Smedley Jones changed his course, and began to dilate upon his family-affairs, and informed me that his brother George was a clerk in the Post-office, where he expressed a hope that Mr. Freeling would *push* him. Finding, upon inquiry, that his brother George lodged at the last house in Cecil Street, which overlooks the mud-bank of the river 'Thames, I answered, "I hope he will." I was then informed that Mr. Smedley Jones's brother Richard was a clerk in the brewhouse

of Sweetwort and Company ; the junior partner of which establishment, "sitting under the same minister" at Hoxton, had promised to push him. Finding that Sweetwort and Company were celebrated for their large vat, I again said, "I hope they will," which procured for me one of those amiable chin-dropping bows which I have already depicted.

"For myself," continued my juvenile companion with the antique bust, "I have a clerk who is a cousin to one of the judges, who goes the home circuit next assizes ; he knows something of the high sheriff, and that kind-hearted and noble personage (Mr. Smedley Jones is not sparing of adjectives to benefactors *in esse* or *in posse*) has promised to push me"—"Neck and heels out of court into the High street," thought I, "or his javelin-man will not be of my mind."

A Captain Smithers, with a dull eye and a drawling voice, now offered his snuff-box to Mr. Smedley Jones ; this the latter declined, with another of those amiable bows to which I have faintly endeavoured to do justice ; and turning to me, observed that snuff-taking was a bad habit for a young man. "At all events," answered I, "he should wear a bad habit, or Scotch rappee will make it one." "Not but what I carry a box myself," continued Mr. Smedley Jones,—with a look that he meant for arch—"here it is :" so saying, he pulled out of his coat-pocket an oblong box, with an amber lid "May I perish," thought I, "if it does not come from Geneva. We shall now be pestered with a regular orthodox series of quadrille tunes."

When this machine had interrupted conversation for the usual period, and had "said its say," I was in hopes that we had done with it: "But soft ! by regular approach—not yet." It was again wound up, and again set a-going, to gratify little Theobald Spinsuit, who had bolted into the dining-room in quest of an orange. These little attentions gratify mothers, and are apt to procure the perpetrator a second invitation to dinner.

There now ensued a regular struggle between Mr. Smedley Jones's tongue and my taciturnity. He is one

of those civil young men who must speak to their neighbours, whether they have anything to communicate or not. I was accordingly asked what I thought of the Catholic Question. I had entertained no thoughts upon the subject. "Indeed!" was the reply. The next interrogatory to which I was subjected, was, "Who was the author of Junius?" I protested that I had never given the matter a moment's reflection. This, however, did not stop the subject, and I was condemned to listen to the usual harangue, with the words "Sir Philip Francis," "Lord Chatham," "Lord Shelburn," "bound copy at banker's," and "tall man at the letter-box," all which topics were by me, jointly and severally, returned *ignoramus*.

Mr. Smedley Jones's battery here suffered a momentary pause: whereupon "Thinks I to myself!" now for my turn. "Since Nature has clapped an old head upon his young shoulders, Art shall insert a young head between my old ones. Fifty-one shall start the topics which twenty-one ought to have discussed." Accordingly I asked Mr. Smedley Jones, to his no small dismay, what he thought of Mrs. Humby's Cherry Ripe and the Lover's Mistake. I took it for granted that he had seen Paul Pry on horseback at Astley's Amphitheatre. I animadverted upon Madame Pasta's Medea: was sorry that Signora Garcia had picked up a Yankee husband: wondered why Potier came to the French theatre in Tottenham-street; and asked him if he could tell me what had become of Delia.

It is thus that extremes produce each other. If twenty-one monopolizes all the sense at the dinner-table, fifty-one must take to the nonsense, or hold its tongue. "Sir," said the moralist of Bolt-court, upon an occasion somewhat similar, "he talked of the origin of evil, whereupon I withdrew my attention, and thought of Tom Thumb."

I fear that Smedley Jones has by this time become almost as wearisome to the reader at second hand, as he was originally the writer. I shall therefore conclude

with this observation:—All monsters ought to be smothered; and wherever Nature puts an old head upon young shoulders, the sooner the one is knocked off the other, the better.

KIT-CAT SKETCHES.

NO. III.

YOUNG HEADS ON OLD SHOULDERS.

THE personage who last employed my pencil had an old head upon young shoulders. I have had a subsequent sitter in an opposite predicament.

Into the magnificent eating-room of the Union Club House, on Wednesday last, at half-past seven o'clock, there entered one of those very numerous people, whom we middle-aged gentlemen about town have known by sight for the last five-and-twenty years, and whom we accost with a mental ejaculation of "Who is that man?"

The stranger had a lean long body, which, in the natural course of events, would have been eased in fleecy hosiery, but which, on the present occasion, was arranged in an olive-brown Wellington frock-coat and white jean waistcoat and trowsers. His cravat was of light-blue silk, his back as stiff as a peer at a Bedford-square dinner-table, and a small moss rose blossomed in his bosom.

Every member of the Union Club is required by its regulations to write his name upon the small piece of ruled paper upon which he inscribes the particulars of his proposed repast. I overlooked one of the old shoulders of the unknown, while in the act of performing that operation, and read to myself, "Sir Jerk Withers." Fortunately for the world of Paul-Pryhood, and equally unfortunately for Sir Jerk, the new book of Peerage includes the Baronets. The precious volume,

bound in red morocco, lay in the newspaper-room. I crossed the hall to inspect it, and turning to the W.'s, read as follows: "Sir Jerk Withers, son of Sir Jerom and Dame Arabella, born the 14th of January, 1766." Good, thought I; this makes him sixty years old in January last.

I now returned to the dining-room; and while Sir Jerk Withers was paying his respects to a ragout of veal and a pint of burgundy, I availed myself of that opportunity to reperuse his face and person.

Time sometimes makes his chief inroads upon the face, sometimes upon the figure, and sometimes, like bidders at an auction, in two places at once. When he helps us to fat, the face continues to look young, and the body gets old. When he helps us to lean, the body continues to look young, and the face gets old. A bulky body is not easily managed: for fat, if dislodged from one station, takes refuge in another; and tight lacing only makes the matter worse. As Swift says, "You lose in coach-hire what you save in wine." I could name an actress, who, on dropping her fan as a lure to Archer, would be terribly puzzled how to pick it up again, if that seeming serving-man should fail so to do.

Now Sir Jerk Withers, having been complimented by old Scythe-and-hourglass with a lean body, ought in equity to have had a young-looking one. But a tropical climate has given it a bend. Still he carries it jauntily, with an air as who should say, "Hey, damme."

Which of us semi-centenarians does not remember Billy Lewis the comedian? There was a man for a fight with time! He drew up his chest, grasped the flaps of his coat *à tergo*, strutted from one stage-door to the other with a stiff knee and a harlequin head, and seemed, like old Nelson, to shake forty winters from his shoulders in less time than it would take a stuttering man to ejaculate Jack Robinson. Even such a man is Sir Jerk Withers; rather older, indeed, in the body, but proportionally younger in the head.

I will not positively assert that the gentleman rouges. Certain, however, it is, that whilst he was in the act of giv-

g directions to one of the dome-buttoned waiters to pull down a window-blind, in order to put out of view the circuitous stand of hackney-coaches which was performing a hippodrome revolution in what once was the King's fiefs, I could not but remark that his shirt-collar was lightly tinged with vermillion.

Nature made the eyebrows and whiskers of Sir Jerk what mothers call auburn, and all the rest of the world red. These have been cautiously dyed of a sort of mahogany colour. So, too, he intended to dye the hair of his head, as I have been credibly informed. The process was terrific : few more so since the days of the martyrs. Sir Jerk's head was rubbed with a magical composition, and he was enjoined to sleep three nights with a huge cabbage-leaf between his scalp and his night-cap, to awaken the virtues of the fluid. He adjourned to the Inn at Salt-hill during the experiment, that nobody in St. James's Street might be privy to it. He arose on the morning ensuing his arrival, with high expectations of his own irresistibility. He unbarred his window, like a male Aurora ; and after taking a peep at the little green hillock, on the opposite side of the road, to which the triennial highway robberies of the Eton boys have given a celebrity rather disproportionate to its bulk, he proceeded to his mirror, and cautiously removed the cap and cabbage-leaf, in the full hope of finding his gray noddle transformed to a beautiful chestnut-brown. Alas ! the virtues of the fluid were not awakened, but those of the cabbage-leaf were. Sir Jerk's hair had become pea-green ! Half distracted, he drove home in a hack-chaise at night, hoping in the recesses of his lodgings in Charles Street to be the Green Man and Still.

Sir Jerk Withers has since taken refuge in a wig, and cautiously abstains from visiting the exhibition of the Royal Academy in Somerset House, as the bronze figure in the quadrangle, pouring water from his urn, would excite an unpleasant association.

Is it not a matter of wonder that all men who wear wigs wear such young ones ? The pert attorney's clerk of twenty-five, the portly merchant of forty, the gouty county

member of fifty, and the Sir Jerk Withers of sixty, have not one of them a single gray hair in their wig.

This is what the lawyers call proving too much. Ever while you live, "eye nature's walks," and where she has planted gray-ash trees, or cleared the ground by denuding the top of the head, do not fly in her face by ordering home a hyacinthine caxon, with one of those curls sometimes called love-locks, and sometimes heart-breakers, playing carelessly over a forehead, where the crow has been busily treading beforehand.

One would think that this mode of making bad worse would be a matter of rare occurrence ;—quite the contrary. No sooner does a man take to a wig than he forthwith resolves to clap a young head upon his old shoulders, and Sir Jerk Withers is too modish a man to be second in the race. In fact, his wig is juvenility itself, not a hair of it yet being out of its teens. The outside of the head is, in that particular, as remote from the age of discretion as is the inside of it.

When Sir Jerk Withers had despatched his dinner, he adjourned up stairs to the library, and I did the same. Here he seated himself at the central table, with his back to the light, as by-gone beauties are apt to do.

I once dined with a certain German princess, at a certain house on the banks of the Thames, to which a subsequent resident gave much temporary celebrity. The German princess had been a favourite toast in her day, but that day was forty years ago. Accordingly her highness manœuvred to avoid fronting the light with all the skill of an admiral getting the weather-gage. The contrivance answered so well, that I did not look upon her as being older than two-and-forty ; when suddenly a city barge, intent upon swan-hopping, sailed up the river. Her highness was thrown off her guard ; she beckoned me to the window to behold the gilded and turtle-fraught vessel. Apollo looked her full in the face ; I did the same ; and her highness showed seventy-two.

A similar accident nearly occurred to Sir Jerk. He had umbled to another table to fetch away a Transatlantic Review. The canvass blind was down, and

just as Sir Jerk was stopping to bear off his prize, an unlucky waiter, conceiving that the room wanted more light, touched a spring. The blind flew up: the slanting sun darted his rays from the apex of Warwick House into the baronet's face. Exit bloom, enter wrinkles; and I verily believe if the club, like that of the university, had admitted ladies, Sir Jerk would have hurled the waiter out of the window, across the street, into Farrance the pastrycook's window at the corner of Spring Gardens, even as Rodomont, in Ariosto, ejected the friar three miles into the Mediterranean.

Hardly had Sir Jerk Withers smoothed his ruffled plumes, when General Fitz-Meadows, an old school-fellow of the baronet, entered the club-room and placed himself at the same table with the latter. "Ay," thought I to myself, as I surveyed their contrasted exteriors, "this is what a gentleman of sixty ought to be." The general's head is bald at the top, and the hair, which curls above his ears, is for the most part gray. His face is ruddy with exercise, and not with rouge. His body swells towards the base, as nature means most gentlemen's bodies at his age to swell. This is a matter of no moment to him. He does not, like his friend the baronet, pinch his unhappy loins in stays, and procure a slight diminution of bulk in that quarter at the expense of causing his face to look as red as a turkey-cock, and his eyes to half-start from their sockets.

The fact is, patching never does any good. I have seen a dandy at the corner of Hamilton Place trying to rub a stray splash from his Russia-duck trousers, and thus converting a splash into a smear. A bald head at sixty is worth all the foretops in Wigmore Street. There is nothing like an honest defect.

KIT-CAT SKETCHES.

NO IV.

LONDON REMANETS.

IN the metropolitan court of Hymen, only a certain number of causes can be tried during the season. In a considerable portion of them the plaintiffs are nonsuited: now and then a juror is withdrawn; and sometimes they go off by consent. Notwithstanding all this, the suits are so numerous, that those which are set down late become Remanets. Mrs. M'Tangle and family are still sojourning in Russell Place, Fitzroy Square. All the rest of the world (that is to say, all the individuals in Mrs. M'Tangle's visiting-book) are out of town; but Mr., Mrs., and three Miss M'Tangles continue in Russell Place, Fitzroy Square. In other words, the M'Tangles are London Remanets.

"What can be the reason of this?" is the question pretty generally put by husbands to wives, and by wives to husbands, who, if they are attached at all, must be held upon these occasions to be "attached for want of answer." None of them know the secret; I do. Mrs. M'Tangle is a very clever woman, and must be supposed to have a reason for what she does. As to Mr. M'Tangle, he is nobody; which, to be sure, is generally the case in families where the wife is somebody. I never knew the world to admit both husband and wife to be clever people. In this respect they are like Chelsea water-works: when one is up, the other is down.

M'Tangle is by no means a fool, when you get him into a corner. A little too apt, indeed, to talk about the corn-laws, but in other respects I should call him an endurable sort of a body; and his prudence is proverbial. During the heat of last summer he is said to have tied

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up his wheel-barrow, because a mad dog had snapped at it; and yet, when the wife is mentioned, people always cry him down.

When I marry, I mean to choose rather a stupid woman. Akin to this prejudice is that of supposing that one person cannot be clever in two pursuits. Parke, the oboe-player, was caught by a friend playing on the fiddle. "For heaven's sake," exclaimed the orifice-puffer, "don't mention it again; if the town knew that I played upon two instruments, they would never give me the credit of excelling on either."

Men always sympathize with the sufferings of girls, more than those of their own sex. "Really, my dear, I pity those poor girls, the M'Tangles," said Mr. Partington to his lady, as he peeped through his telescope on the Margate pier-head, in the vain hope of catching a little smoke in the horizon, from which to infer the coming of the Eclipse steam-vessel: "there they are broiling in town this whole blessed summer; you *should* ask one of them down."

So saying, Mr. Partington tilted his Chinese straw hat a little more over his brow, to shade his eyes from the burning glare of Phœbus. "Why, as to that, my dear," answered the wife, "we have daughters of our own to dispose of: and don't you remember how Sally M'Tangle took the first in the duet of 'Con un Aria' with Colonel Nightingale, after he had tried it with our daughter Fanny, and had found that the poor girl could not get on with it? I have never had a good opinion of the family since." This, of course, settled the matter.

A word with Mr. Partington about his phrase "broiling in town." I am a town man myself, and think it my duty to stand up for my own metropolis. Why should the M'Tangles broil, because they happen to be in town? For my part I can only say that, when I was last at Ramsgate, I was broiled pretty handsomely. I took a walk upon the light-house pier, and a very light-house pier it was: my face was like Lord Kelly's, whom Foote solicited to look over his garden-wall to ripen his mellons: St. Laurence was a sprat to me. On my

return to town, I took a boat from Cherry-garden stair to White-hall, to do which I had to walk down Botolph Lane. The street was delightfully narrow ; the sun could not enter, but a column of air could ; and I was regaled by the grateful scent of oranges and lemons in the adjoining warehouses. Let us hear no more of broiling in town. From that time forth I have always set down my cause as a London Remanet.

The fact is, that Mrs. M'Tangle has let me into her confidence, knowing that I never publish. I met her, of all places in the world, in a private box at the Adelphi Theatre, witnessing the representation of Long Tom Coffin by Mr. T. P. Cooke, and a very clever representation it is.

"You never come near us now," ejaculated Mrs. M'Tangle, in one of her most mellifluent moods. Knowing that I was past praying for in the matrimonial line, I felt puzzled to account for this sudden predilection. However, it was settled that I should dine with her on the Wednesday following, when I accordingly met three or four young men—a great deal too young for me, but by no means too young for the Mesdemoiselles M'Tangle.

We had the usual lures. Tom Gisborne, who had made a good deal of money by Mexican Script, was asked by Miss M'Tangle if he would not have some love-sauce with his muffin pudding. George Juniper, a rising wine and brandy merchant, sang after dinner, "My spirits are mounting, my heart's full of glee," (Cause and effect in one line,) which Jane M'Tangle pronounced to be the best song she ever heard in her life ; and Sarah, the youngest, undismayed by her former failure in "Con un Aria," consented to take the first in the "Witches' Glee," composed by King, if Mr. Parsons (son and heir of Sir Peregrine Parsons) would take the second. I found, by comparing little circumstances together, that they had been conning it over for weeks : and I now discovered the secret of Mrs. M'Tangle's adoration of me at the Adelphi theatre : I had observed Jane whispering her mother between the acts

gnificantly, and had overheard the words, "Sing a song."

I thought at the moment that this was meant to apply to Long Tom Coffin, but I now found that I was the hero of the side-speech, and that I had been complimented with a knife and fork in Russell-place, in order to grumble out, "When the hurly-burly's done." Being in the main a good-natured man, when nothing occurs to vex me, I made no objection, and away we started with 'When shall we three meet again,' as loud as if nothing had happened.

After this, I left the three girls tumbling over their music-books in quest of "*O Patria ingrata!*" "You will find it among the loose songs," said Jane to Sarah, where, it occurred to me, it had no business to be. It farther occurred to me, that my bass being ended, and there being three girls and three young men, exclusive of the author, I was one too many. Accordingly kind Mrs. M'Tangle called me into the adjoining drawing-room, to get me out of harm's way: and I left the half dozen young ones pinned two and two, as young ones should, looking over operas, and hoping that Velluti was not going to leave us.

Mrs. M'Tangle now let me a little into her plan. I took my seat by her on the sofa; and, while a crimson ottoman propped her feet, she opened after the following fashion:—"This is the third year of my continuance in town during the summer. After a pretty regular run of the watering-places, I found them all, from July to September, overstocked with other people's daughters, possessed of greater personal attractions than mine. One warm morning I was conning the matter over with Mr. M'Tangle at Donaldson's Library, when it suddenly occurred to me, that London in the autumn, from the absence of competitors, would give the girls a reasonable chance. I mentioned the matter to Mr. M'Tangle, who caught at the idea with alacrity. Poor man! he never liked the sea-side. The sun put out his eyes; and the absence of his ledger and day-book gave him the yellow jaundice. We accordingly resolved to adhere to Russell

FROM FITZROY SQUARE through good and evil report, from year's end to year's end. The scheme has, I am glad to say, universally succeeded. Young men are delighted with a dinner invitation in September and October: and when you must have them, you keep them."—"True," answered L.—"but what species of young men? Perhaps of human are sitting game a hundred miles off."—"Perhaps of human people of middle-stick!" retorted Mrs. M. Tughr.—"I have no care for the Lord Charleses and Lord Johns. Give me income. There is a considerable portion of good marriageable material in the Exchange and Cornhill and about the Royal Exchange. Perhaps amongst them there would be in town during a great part of the autumnal season. I have procured two sons-in-law already, who came hither a courting, with their legs pointed from the top of the Tallyho Paddington coach. On their descent they had only to cross Fitzroy Square, and there they were. You may rely upon it, sir, the true way of amassing society is to give people dinners when nobody else will."

"I highly approve of your plan, Madam," answered L. rising to take his leave. "I will recommend its adoption to Alexander Hungerford, now on his travels in Greece in quest of liberty and the picturesque. He has seven marriageable daughters. Our young countrymen are flocking to Athens in shoals—a dinner-party in the Acropolis will infallibly do the business."

KIT-CAT SKETCHES.

NO. V.

OBLITERATION OF IDEAS.

So long ago as the year 1782, a subject for dissection was brought to the then residence of Sir William Blizard in Lime Street. John Haynes had been by profession

a thief and housebreaker, and had, in consequence, finished his career at Tyburn. The body showed signs of life, and Sir William perfected its recovery. Anxious to know the sensations which John Haynes had experienced at the moment of his suspension, the surgeon questioned the thief earnestly upon that subject. All the answer he obtained was as follows:—"The last thing I recollect was going up Holborn Hill in a cart. I thought then that I was in a beautiful green field—and this is all I remember till I found myself in your honour's dissecting-room."

"Well, but, my dear sir," said Sir William Blizard, in his emphatic manner, "beautiful green fields? you must surely mistake! there are no fields between Holborn Hill and Tyburn, but those in which the church of Saint Giles was built, and they have been brick, stone, and mortar this many a year—and, besides, there was Middle Row to pass, and the north end of Drury Lane; not to mention the portal of the church I have alluded to, over which Judgment day is carved in bronze; this surely must have arrested the attention of a gentleman in your situation."

It was all to no purpose; there was no recalling to the mind of John Haynes any local object beyond the parish church of St. Andrew's, Holborn. The surgeon was sorely puzzled; he had some reading in metaphysics, and more than some in anatomy; but here was a clear case of obliteration of all ideas immediately preceding the catastrophe in the cart. They had not merely faded from the man's mind; they were forcibly driven out of it, and no effort of his brain could suffice to recall them.

Mr. Deputy Dowgate was one of the stewards of the Literary Fund anniversary dinner. He locked his desk, walked from his counting-house in Union Court, Broad Street, entered a hackney-coach at the corner of Queen-street, Cheapside, and descended from it at the entrance of the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand. He then was summoned to dinner, swallowed the usual quantity of bad wine and worse speeches, and, in the

evening, mounted the box of the Camberwell coach to return home.

Jehu, on arriving at the Old Parr's Head, at the corner of the Green, drove his left front wheel unconsciously over a supine sow. The coach was upset, and the Deputy lay as supine as the sow. In three days Mr. Dowgate recovered his senses, and alleged to the wondering bystanders that he had no recollection of any incident beyond that of locking his desk and depositing the keys in his left waistcoat pocket.

Now Mr. Poet Fitz-Gerald had recited some verses at the dinner, aloft from a small table covered with green baize, at the right elbow of the president. This surely was enough to "create a soul under the ribs of death," as the aforesaid poet's prototype has it. But no! not even that event; no, nor Mr. Deputy Dowgate's own white wand of office, nor his own speech in answer to "'The Stewards! with thanks for their kind entertainment,'" could by any effort of the attendant apothecary be replaced in the sufferer's sensorium. Here was another instance of all ideas between Broad Street and the Strand obliterated by a concussion of the brain.

Tom Meredith drove his cabriolet, one fine day, during the many that enlivened the last summer, to join a dinner-party at the Castle at Richmond. On his return homeward, rather warm with the Tuscan grape, he encountered an old woman, vending stationary pippins, in front of the Red Lion at Putney. Tom made no bones of breaking the old woman's—the Paddington coachmen do, so daily—and why not Tom?—but, unluckily, the crone was cased in a pair of Yorkshire stays. These served her in as good a stead as the corslet of the man in armour, who tumbled from his horse last Lord Mayor's day, and lay snug and unhurt in Mac Adam's mud, at the corner of Bridge Street, Blackfriars, immediately opposite the Albion Assurance Office, while the whole procession passed over him.

So it fared with the old apple-vender, by whose tough whalebone Tom's wheel was tilted into the air. The horse plunged; the shafts snapped; and the driver lay

under the hood of the cabriolet like a butterfly under a hat. 'The quadruped, in the meantime, with his hind hoofs, helped himself where he liked ; and Mr. 'Thomas Meredith became insensible from rather too rude a blow on the forehead.

'Tom, in the course of a week, came to what his friends, by courtesy, call his senses ; but no incident could his sensorium recall beyond the payment of the toll at Putney Bridge, on his way down to Richmond. Mrs. Forty's excellent bottled porter and iced champagne had been diluted by the waters of Lethe.

As I had been of the dinner-party, and had told one of my best stories, it so grieved me to the soul that Tom Meredith should pass through his future life unapprised of the anecdote, that I determined to take a ride to the aforesaid Red Lion, to cross-examine him upon the topic. " Well, but, my dear 'Tom," said I, " although you may possibly forget passing old Lord Kenyon's miserly mansion at Marsh Gate, and Mrs. Forty's carved mahogany staircase, and her maid of honour cheese-cakes, and even the 'hip, hip, hip, huzza,' of Major Stentor, yet it is absolutely impossible that you can have forgotten my story of the Cambridge mayor." Indeed, my dear friend, but I have," faintly ejaculated Mr. Meredith ; " will you oblige me so far as to repeat it ?" " For once, 'Tom, I will," rejoined I ; " but pray take care of your head in future. If my anecdote is again knocked out of it, I cannot promise to repeat it a third time. You must know, Tom, that at an election dinner at Cambridge the mayor sat at one end of the table, and Sir Peter Pawsey, a gentleman of a good estate in Lincolnshire, at the other. Sir Peter's son, a raw long-legged lad from Harrow, was also at table. After dinner, the general buzz that frequently occurs in a large mixed party, was succeeded by a momentary silence. ' Here is one of those awkward *pauses* that one sometimes meets with at table,' observed the mayor to a doctor of civil laws on his right. Well, 'Tom, the conversation went on, and in about ten minutes a cessation of talk suddenly took place. ' Here is another of those awkward *pauses* at table,' repeated

the mayor to the doctor.—‘Not half so awkward as a Cambridge mayor,’ bellowed Sir Peter Pawsey, casting a furious glance at the astonished chief magistrate. The fact is, Tom, the baronet had pocketed the first supposed personal affront, which he had taken to himself; but the second glancing, as it seemed to do, upon his darling and only son, was too much for his temper’s endurance.”—Mr. Meredith thanked me for my story, and promised to drive more cautiously in future.

Here are three well-attested instances of Ideas obliterated by a blow—clearly knocked out of the head, as if they were so many books knocked from the shelf of a library; and one of the strange parts of the matter is that the periods of time thus rudely annihilated, are in all three cases nearly similar. The time occupied by the thief in riding between Holborn Hill and Tyburn, must have been about the same as that employed by Deputy Dowgate between Union Court, Broad Street, and the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand: and, allowing for the average rate of motion of Tom Meredith’s cabriolet, he must have employed, between Putney and Richmond, a portion of time nearly equal to the other two. I am not much of a metaphysician, but I think I may venture to say, that from John Locke to Dugald Stewart, no similar fact has been accounted for, or even mentioned.

Leaving it, however, to philosophers to explain the phenomenon, I, as a practical man, cannot but dilate upon the useful purposes to which it may be turned. If a simple fracture of the skull will drive out of a man’s head an hour’s incidents, a compound fracture may obliterate a whole day’s; and *é converso*, a mere external contusion may knock off twenty minutes, and a slight rap with a cudgel may get rid of a disagreeable quarter of an hour. What a field is here opened for improvement in social intercourse! How many bores next to one at table may be put up with, if one’s footman may with his cane knock it all out of one’s head! Then again, as to Courts of Justice: In a case which occurred it Friday in the Court of King’s Bench, where the editor

of a morning paper was tried for the publication of two libels, Mr. Scarlett, for the plaintiff, upon the calling of the second cause, desired the jury to dismiss from their minds all that had occurred in the trial of the first. How palpably impossible ! So the public is repeatedly desired to suspend its judgment. The public may hang up its hat, but I defy it to suspend its judgment. There is only one practical way of effecting it. Embody Caligula's Roman wish in London ; give John Bull one neck, and one head will follow as a matter of course. Then take a sledge-hammer, and smite him between the horns: so shall John Bull suspend his judgment. So, too, in two similar actions at law. Let the crier of the court be furnished with a good bludgeon, and, after the first verdict, smite each special jurymen on the oblivious occiput: (not omitting a tap for the tales-men). Mr. Scarlett may then say, "Gentlemen of the jury, are you all cudgelled?" and the second cause may proceed.

I dined lately with the Mortmains, a serious family in Mecklenburg Square ; and a very serious piece of business it was. Methought the very cod's head looked seriously at me out of the top dish, and the roasted hare in the second course looked very serious indeed. I was asked after tea, (or rather it was hoped,) that I did not play at cards. I answered as Horne Tooke answered George III., "I don't know a king from a knave." Hereupon I was highly lauded by Mrs. Mortmain, who pronounced card playing "a sad waste of time." I ventured to ask the serious Miss Emma Mortmain her opinion of Caradori's *La Vestale*, that being a grand *serious* opera: the young lady answered, "We never go to the Opera, or any public places—it is a sad waste of time."

As I saw the whole family last spring at a crowded concert at Willis's, that, I presume, was a private place.

The Rev. Hezekiah Halt, the celebrated antigamist of Finsbury, then proceeded to expound us a text, and this, I must in candour own, was the least serious part of the entertainment. At eight o'clock we adjourned to a room on the ground-floor, to see Jane, Sarah, and Lucy Mort-

man was a serious dancing-master. "I consider myself very fortunate," said Mrs. Morimain, as we descended the stairs, "in having discovered a serious dancing-master." This I only awakened my curiosity. I had not seen a serious dancing-master since Deshayes danced the Death of Nelson at the Opera-house.

On entering the back room behind the dining parlor, we found the young ladies arrayed with their light-brown locks at least at three pound of candies. "Cutting the hair" said her mamma, "is a sad waste of time." "It is worse, my dear," said her spouse: "it is benumbing." I rather suspect Mr. Morimain here glanced at the marble head of Jupiter Tonant at the Despede, whose locks and beard wave in spiral corkscrews; but of this I am not certain.

After dancing a serious quadrille, the children were walked off to bed to the tune of the Dead March in Saul, and the elder branches and myself returned to the drawing room. An all amusement is a sad waste of time, we then occupied ourselves till ten o'clock by looking at the fire.

I had almost forgot to mention, that the serious dancing-master played upon a serious kit which he drew out of a black bombazzen bag. I mentioned this latter circumstance to William Spencer, who exclaimed, "I have often seen a serious cat, but a serious kit must be as good a rarity as a tortoise-shell Tom."

I considered the whole of this affair to be what we lawyers call a *dis non*. The bare reflection upon it was a bath of the first water and magnitude: whereupon I resolved to "lie to the witches,"—in plain language, to inform Mr. Deville, the phrenological lamp-maker in the Strand, to know whether he could not, by some process less cruel than fracturing the skull, drive the evil spirits out of the head person in Mecklenburg Square. I told him my errand, and the philosopher (whose head was as round as a ball, and as he broke Priscian's head in the Strand, he was not the first gentleman who had been at the house upon this

errand. Let me see—yes, here it is—Organ of Evangelism, very faintly propelled.” “I feared as much,” said I mournfully. “Then prithee repel it, for I am in a fever to forget Mecklenburg Square.” I could do it in a moment, Sir,” said the artist, “but, with submission, I think you had better leave it alone.” “Why so?” “Because, if you drive Mr. and Mrs. Mortmain entirely out of your head, you may, from forgetfulness of what has passed, be induced to dine there again; whereas now,”—“Say no more, Mr. Deville,” said I with alacrity, “Say no more; you are a man of sense; so pray send me home that bronze reading-lamp.”

KIT-CAT SKETCHES.

NO. VI.

MY WIFE'S MOTHER.

My uncle George was never easy till he got all the males of the family married. He has said to me, at least a hundred times, “John, I’m surprised you don’t settle.” I did not at first understand his meaning. I was walking with him in the Temple Gardens, and while we were in the act of contemplating the beauties of the majestic Thames—I allude to a man in a red night-cap walking to and fro on a floating raft of tied timbers, and a coal-barge embedded in mud—he stopped short on the gravel-walk, and said, “John, why don’t you settle?” Concluding that he was tired, I answered, “Oh, by all means,” and sat down in the green alcove at the eastern extremity of the footpath. “Pho!” said my uncle, “I don’t mean that; I mean, why don’t you marry? There’s your brother Tom is settled, and has had seven children, not reckoning two who died of the measles; and Charles is settled, and he has nine; his eldest boy

Jack is tall enough to thump him; and Edward is settled, at least he will be, as soon as Charlotte Payne has made up her mind to live in Lime-street. I wonder why you don't settle." "Pray uncle," said I, "of what Bucks Lodge are you a noble brother?" "Why do you ask?" said he. "Because," replied I, "you seem to think men are like masonry—never to be depended upon till they settle."

As we walked homeward, we saw that adventurous aëronaut Garnerin flying over our heads; and while we were wondering at his valour, he cut the rope that fastened his baloon to his parachute, and began to descend in the latter towards the earth. My uncle George began to run as fast as his legs could carry him, looking all the while so intently upwards, that he did not advert to a nurse-maid and two children, whom he accordingly upset in his course, and nearly precipitated into the subjacent ooze. "What's the matter, uncle?" said I. "Matter!" answered my outinian relative, "why, I'm going to look after Garnerin; I shall never be easy till I see him settled."

In process of time, my uncle began to be seriously displeased at my not settling. Population, he seemed to opine, was on the wane; and if anything should happen to my brothers Tom and Charles, and their respective families, not omitting Edward and his issue, when his intended wife should have conquered her repugnance to Lime-street, what would become of the House of Jackson? It might be dead, defunct, extinct, like the Plantagenets and Montmorencies of other days, unless I, John Jackson, of Finsbury Circus, underwriter, became accessory to its continuation.

The dilemma was awful, and my uncle George had money to leave. I accordingly resolved to fall in love. This, however, I found to be a matter more easily resolved upon than accomplished. A man may fall in a ditch whenever he pleases—he must fall in love when and where he can.

My mother recommended Susan Roper to me as a suitable match: and so she was, as far as circumstances

extend. Her father was a reputable coal-merchant, living in Chatham-place : I tried very much to be in love with her, and one warm evening when she sang "Hush every breeze," in a boat under the second arch of Blackfriars bridge, and accompanied herself upon the guitar, I thought that I was in love—but it went off before morning. I was afterwards very glad it was so, for Susan Roper turned out very fat, and ate mustard with her roast beef. She married Tom Holloway, the Policy Broker, and I wished him joy. I wish it him still, but I doubt the efficacy of my prayers, inasmuch as his wife's visage bears a strong resemblance to the illuminated dial-plate of St. Giles's church clock.

My next affair was more decisive in its result. Old Mrs. Cumming, of St. Helen's-place, Bishopsgate-street, had a daughter named Jane, who taught me some duets. We sang "When thy bosom heaves a sigh,"—"Take back the Virgin page,"—and "Fair Aurora," with impunity : but when it came to "Together let us range the fields," where the high contracting parties talk about "tinkling rills" and "rosy beds," the old lady who had hitherto sat in seeming carelessness on the sofa, hemming doyleys, requested to speak with me in the back drawing-room, and, after shutting the door, asked me my intentions. My heart was in my mouth, which plainly implied that it was still in my own keeping. Nevertheless, I had no answer ready ; so Jane Cumming and I were married on that day month.

My uncle George was so delighted at my being settled, that, after making us a present of a silver coffee-pot, he exclaimed, "I shall now die happy ;" an intention, however, which he has since shown himself in no hurry to carry into effect.

Now came my wife's mother into play. Sparrows leave their daughters to shift for themselves the moment they are able to take to the wing. (My uncle George calls this barbarous, and says they should wait till they are settled.) But in Christian countries, like England, one's wife's mother is not so unnatural. Mrs. Cumming lives, as I before mentioned, in St. Helen's-place ; I

reside in Finsbury-circus : so that the old lady has only to cross Bishopsgate-street, pass the churchyard, and issue through the iron bars at the base of Broad-street-buildings, and here she is. 'This makes it so very convenient, that she is never out of my house. Indeed, all the congratulations of my wife's friends, verbal and epistolary, ended with this apophthegm, "Then it must be so delightful to you to have your mamma so near!"

It is, in fact, not only delightful, but quite providential. I do not know what my wife would do without my wife's mother. She is the organ blower to the organ—the kitchen jack to the kitchen fire—the verb that governs the accusative case. Mrs. Cummings has acquired, from the pressure of time, rather a stoop in her gait; but whenever my wife is in the family way, my wife's mother is as tall and perpendicular as a Prussian life-guardsmen. Such a bustling about the house, such a cry of "hush" to the pre-existent children, and such a bevy of directions to Jane! The general order given to my wife is to lie flat upon her back and look at nothing but the fly-trap, that hangs from the ceiling. For five months out of the twelve, my wife is parallel to the horizon, like a good quiet monumental wife in Westminster Abbey, and my wife's mother is sitting beside her with a bottle of eau de Cologne in one hand, and one of my book-club books in the other.

By the way, talking of book-clubs, it makes a great difference, as to the utility of those institutions, whether the members of them are married or single. My wife's mother is a woman of uncommon purity of mind, and so consequently is my wife. We have accordingly discarded our Malone and Steevens, to make way for Bowdler's Family Shakspeare. My expensive quarto edition of Paradise Lost, printed in the year 1794, is dismissed to an empty garret, because it contains cuts of our first parents undecorated by the tailor and milliner. It is to be succeeded by a Family Milton, edited by the late Mr. Butterworth, in which our aforesaid progenitors are clad, like the poet's own evening, "in sober gray."

My wife's mother is herself editing a Family Æsop, in

which old Menenius Agrippa's fable of the belly and the members is denominated the stomach and the members. Our family nomenclature is equally unexceptionable. Water, according to us, is the elemental fluid; a mad dog is a rabid animal; little Charles was yesterday reuked for alleging that he had seen a mad bull, and informed by my wife's mother that the animal, which had excited his fears, was an over-driven ox. A pair of trousers is the rest of a man's dress; newspaper reporters are gentlemen connected with the press; and a sheep-stealer making his exit under the gallows is not hanged, but launched into eternity.

Neither do our obligations to my wife's mother end here. Our workmen she has changed to operatives; and by parity of reasoning she would have denominated the parish workhouse an opera-house, had she not been apprehensive that in doing so she might then cause Miss Fanny Ayton, in error, to call upon us in quest of a re-engagement. Old Bethlem is already Liverpool Street, and we only wait to see Edinburgh fairly launched as the modern Athens, to call Broker's Row Cabinet Crescent.

But to return a while to our book-club. My wife and my wife's mother have an amazing knack of grasping all the quartos and octavos that come to my share. They all get into my wife's boudoir, as my wife's mother has christened it, whence they seldom emerge till a week or ten days after they are transferable. This costs me an extra sixpence per book per diem—but that's a trifle. I sent up stairs yesterday for something to amuse me, hoping for De Vere, and down came little Billy with Baverstock on Brewing, with a portrait of the author prefixed. I myself drink nothing but water, but the secretary of the club brews his own beer. I sent back Baverstock on Brewing, with a request for something more funny; whereupon my wife's mother sent me down Sermons by the Rev. Something Andrews, of Walworth, with a portrait of the author likewise prefixed.

Mr. Burridge, the indigo broker, happened to be with

me when this latter publication arrived; and when we happened also to be discoursing about what trade my nephew Osgood should be brought up to, Mr. Burrige cast his eye upon the portrait, and said, "Has your nephew got a black whisker?" "Yes," I answered. "And a white shirt collar?" "Yes." "Then bring him up to the church." It appears to me that a book-club would be a good thing if we could but get the books we want, and when we want them. But perhaps I am too particular.

We never have a dinner, without, of course, inviting my wife's mother. Indeed, she always settles the day, the dishes, and the party. Last Wednesday I begged hard to have Jack Smith invited; but no—my wife's mother was inexorable. The last time he dined with us he was asked for a song. Mrs. Cummings wanted him to sing "My Mother had a Maid called Barbara;" thinking that daughters should bear in mind not only their mothers, but their mothers' maids: whereupon what does Jack do but break cover as follows:—

"The Greeks they went fighting to Troy;
The Trojans they came out to meet 'em:
'Tis known to each little schoolboy
How the Greeks they horse-jockey'd and beat 'em.

"No house in that day was secured;
They made them too hot for their holders;
And Æneas, not being insured,
Pack'd off with his dad on his shoulders,
Singing Rumpti, &c.

This was intolerable. A man who would mention a husband's father thus irreverently, could only wait for an opportunity in order to lampoon a wife's mother. Jack is, consequently, suffering under the ban of the Finabury empire.

This reminds me of an odd incident that happened under my cognizance before I had a wife's mother. I went one night into the green-room of Drury Lane theatre. When young girls are called upon to perform in

London playhouses, it is customary for their mothers to come to look after them, to adjust their dress, rub their cheeks, with a rouged hare's foot, and prevent viscounts from falling in love with them. It so happened that five young girls were wanted in the drama : the consequence was, that five black-bonneted mothers blockaded the green-room. "Did you ever see anything like it?" ejaculated Munden, in an under tone ; "I'll bring my own mother to-morrow night : I've as much right as they have !"—Munden's mother !!!

I own I am puzzled to know what my wife will do when my wife's mother dies, which, in the course of nature, she must do first. The laws of this country prevent her from mounting the pile, like a Hindoo widow, or descending into the grave, like Sinbad, the sailor. But I will not anticipate so lamentable an epoch.

Two incidents more, and I have done. We went, last Wednesday, with my uncle George and my wife's mother, to Covent Garden theatre, to see "Peter Wilkins, or the Flying Indians," whom, by the way, my wife's mother mistook for defeated Burmese. Miss M. Glover and Miss J. Scott, acted two flying Gowries, and were swinging across the stage when Mrs. Cumming expressed a wish to go home. "No, no, wait a little," said my uncle, looking upward to the theatrical firmament, "I'm quite uneasy about those two girls ; I hope they'll soon settle."

Last Sunday Doctor Stubble gave us an excellent sermon : the subject was the fall of man ; in which he descanted eloquently upon the happiness of Adam in Paradise. "Alas !" ejaculated I to myself as we walked homeward, "his happiness even there must have been incomplete ! His wife had no mother !"

KIT-CAT SKETCHES.

NO. VII.

DAUGHTERS TO INTRODUCE.

JOHN SCRAGGS had resided many years, in a dull sort of respectable felicity, at Clapton. His upper windows overlooked a pool of water, which his daughters called the Reservoir, and he the 'Tank. He every morning entered the London stage-coach at nine o'clock; and the vehicle deposited him safely at the Flowerpot in Bishopsgate Street about ten. The persons who journeyed with him to and fro in the Clapton coach were, of course, generally neighbours, and men in the same walk of life. They would, consequently, talk about rum and molasses, York pantiles, and Muscovado sugar; the new Saint Catherine Docks and the new Administration; the Thames Tunnel and turpentine; not omitting coffee, indigo, and our troops in Portugal. They pretty generally agreed in the absence of wisdom and virtue from the West end of the town, and in their presence East of Temple Bar; and they would jointly and severally boast of not having seen a play for the last twenty years. All frequenters of Epsom races were, according to them, blacklegs; all Catholics, not so sure of salvation as they might be; and all women of fashion, no better than they should be.

“A life so sacred, such serene repose,
Seem'd heaven itself, till one suggestion rose!”

Mr. John Scraggs, one fine afternoon in June, was looking intently at three live cucumbers under a glass in his kitchen-garden, and was in the act of wondering why two of them should be as crooked as his cow's horn, and the third as straight as his lignum-vitæ rule, when his wife made her appearance and smilingly presented

Mr. Scraggs with five remarkably fine gooseberries, recently plucked by her own fair hand from the prickly bush which is planted third on the left side of the gravel walk, as you look from the bow-window of the drawing-room.

“Umph!” ejaculated Mr. Scraggs to himself, as he surveyed the donation, “a sprat to catch a whale; I wonder what is in the wind now.” “My dear,” said Mrs. Scraggs, “I have been thinking about this house. The lease, you know, is out in September.”—“Yes, my dear,” answered Mr. Scraggs, “I know it is. I mean to write to-morrow to Mr. Chaffer about renewing it.”—“That’s the very thing I want you not to do,” resumed the lady. “Clapton is all very well for young children who want air, though that indeed will not be left long. That new row of houses opposite the terrace will be the ruin of the place. One used to be able to see Lady James’s tower on Shooter’s Hill, but soon nobody will be able to breathe: nothing but brick and mortar all about us. No, my dear, as the girls are growing up, we must think of removing to town.”

Mr. Scraggs let drop his five gooseberries into his cucumber-frame. “Removing to town!”—“Yes,”—“Pray, why so?”—“Why, we have daughters to introduce.”—“To introduce? to whom? If you mean the Queen of Wirtemberg, I’m sure Mr. Lake will lend us his *multum in parvo*, as he calls it, to take us all to—” —“Queen of Wirtemberg! Nonsense, Mr. Scraggs! I mean to introduce by way of settling.”—“Oh, now I understand you: you want the girls to marry.”—“Exactly so.”—“Well, but why go away from Clapton to do that? We have an excellent parish church at Hackney, and a very audible parson: it does one’s heart good to hear him publish the banns.”—“No, Mr. Scraggs, the girls would be thrown away here. They are out of their element in the purlieus of Lea-bridge: absolute mermaids out of water. Sarah is tall, and writes poetry; and Amelia is reckoned very like Miss Foote, and plays on the guitar. Signor Clinkattini has taught her to give it the prettiest thumps with what he calls the

heel of her hand, and to accompany it with such a roll of her eye, that I am greatly mistaken if she does not, before her first season is over, jump into a chariot and a house in Park Lane."—"A house in Mark Lane would be rather more in her line, my dear," gravely observed Mr. Scraggs.

Here the conversation dropped; and to a single spectator it might have seemed that the lady took nothing by her motion; but a married bystander would have inferred otherwise. Continual dropping will wear away a stone; and, by parity of reasoning, continual wise-ing will wear away a husband. In six weeks the family was transferred to Upper Baker Street; Mr. Scraggs having, on the day that preceded his departure from Clapton, taken a mournful glance through his telescope at the pious and conspicuous tower erected by Lady James to the memory of her departed lord.

I called upon the girls about a week after their transplantation, and found them in tip-top spirits. Sarah had just finished writing a new song, entitled "Why do I weep?" to the tune of "There is nae luck about the house," in slow time: it having been ascertained that quick tunes are the most pathetic ones when sung slow. The song was written after the most approved modern recipe. It depicts a young man jilted by the woman he adored; despising gaieties of which there is no evidence that he ever partook. He talks of "treating other beauties with disdain," without once adverting to the fable of the Fox and the Grapes; and exclaims, "In vain Almack's would beckon me," without making it appear that he was ever tempted by the offer of a ticket. Nevertheless, "Why do I weep?" is so correctly penned after the most approved models now in vogue, that I should not be at all surprised if it puts "Oh no! we never mention her," *hors de combat*, and drives "Isabel" fairly off the barrel organs.

Amelia had just fitted a new pale-blue ribbon to her guitar, and having slung it across her neck, was practising attitudes in the mirror. Mrs. Scraggs told me that they had got into a delightful situation, being not

fifty yards distant from Mrs. Siddons. Having myself always entertained a great admiration of Mrs. Siddons, whether on public bare boards or private carpeted ones, I ventured to ask if they knew that lady? "Oh no," was the answer; "but you know it is a great thing to have her so near us." To this I acceded.

There now entered a visitor, whom the footman announced as Mr. Wellbut. The real family name is Welford, my grandfather and his having been school-fellows at Harrow. The name, however, is now so generally altered to Wellbut, that it would sound pedantic and precise to call him by his real name. The alteration, I have heard, originated from the grandfather, the father, and the present man, having got the habit of cross-examining people out of their favourite positions; in other words, unhorsing them from their hobbies: "Well but, my dear sir," will they regularly say to any merchant who has found it convenient to draw in his pecuniary horns, "what could be the reason that induced you to lay down your carriage?" "Oh! the trouble was immense; and Robin got so regularly drunk, that we were in terror of our lives." "Well, but you might have turned him away; there are plenty of sober coachmen to be had." "True, but we had another reason." "What could that be?" "So many vulgar people keep carriages!"

To this polite and catechising gentleman, Mr. Scraggs, now entering the room, instantly became most imprudently communicative; telling him that one great reason for his taking a house in Upper Baker Street (independently of its being so near Mrs. Siddons) was, that it was but a stone's throw from Portman Square. "Well but, my dear sir," ejaculated the visitor, "what do you call a stone's throw? Mount Vesuvius will throw you a stone a matter of thirty miles; and little King David, though not so strong as Vesuvius, would throw a stone much farther than I could: witness his attack upon Goliath." "Oh! I mean it is but a street's length off," carelessly answered Scraggs. "Well, but streets differ in length," rejoined the indefatigable querist; "only

consider Oxford Street and Little St. Thomas Apostle's: what a difference!" This matter being at length laid at rest, Mr. Wellbut became anxious to know why the propinquity of Portman Square was an object. "Oh!" cried Mrs. Scraggs, who by this time had joined the party, "that is easily answered. We have contrived to get a key of the Square gardens, and it is a most unexceptionable promenade for a family where there are daughters to introduce."

On entering the central part of Portman Square, we encountered a decent-looking young man coming forth from the iron gate, who nodded familiarly to the girls, but whom they honoured, in return, with a more distant salutation. "Who is that?" said I. "Oh! only young Eggars."—"And pray, who may young Eggars be?" "Oh, we have nothing particular to say against him, except as to where he lives."—"Indeed! and pray what has his residence done to offend you?"—"Red Lion Square!" ejaculated Amelia, with a look of horror. "I understand the case," said I; "Red Lion Square might assimilate with Clapton, but it won't do with Baker Street."

I was gratified to find the family such able proficient in the science of cutting. The fact is, that the streets and squares of London are remarkably nice as to whom they allow to come near them. No inviting home to supper the devil knows who, like Don Giovanni in the Italian Opera. Grosvenor Square dubs Portman Square the suburbs; and accordingly slights "all which it inherits," Portman turns up its nose at Cavendish, and Cavendish revenges itself upon Soho. Soho, notwithstanding its dingy antiquity, holds its head above Russell. Russell slights Bedford, who in return won't speak to Bloomsbury. Bloomsbury holds itself immeasurably superior to Red Lion, whose only consolation, in return, is to call itself the west end of the town, and to dub the inhabitants of Ely Place "City people." Neither does the conflict end here. In the City, the Friars are, notwithstanding their holy brotherhood, in a state of continued hostility. Blackfriars won't commune

with White; Whitefriars undervalues Austin Friars; and Austin Friars looks upon Crutched Friars as the lowest deep of low life.

In what a woful dilemma all these poor streets and squares would be in the event of an earthquake! I verily believe that the cheek-by-jowl consequences of such a catastrophe would more annoy them than the danger of dissolution. From all this episode I infer, that the Willoughby Scraggses could not be expected to notice young Eggars until he had changed his lodgings.

On taking a seat in a green trellissed alcove in the centre of the gardens, Mrs. Willoughby Scraggs began, with an air of conscious pride, to enumerate her dignified neighbours. "No. 8," said the lady, "is the Earl of Beverley's; No. 14 is Lord Scarborough's; and the Duke of Newcastle lives at No. 17. Lady Manvers's house is No. 25, and the Duchess of Roxburghe and the Honourable John Manners reside at No. 32."—"Ay, ay!" exclaimed I, "I now see your object in coming here: you have daughters to introduce, and these are the people to whom you mean to introduce them."—"No, no!" said Mr. Willoughby Scraggs, "not quite so high as that."—"Then how high?" interrupted the indefatigable Wellbut; "perhaps a baronet will do; or an eldest son of a county member; or a colonel on full pay, with five thousand a year of his own. You say you have daughters to introduce: but, my dear Sir, to introduce to *whom*? If to people in their own sphere, Devonshire, Bishopsgate Street, is much more convenient than Devonshire Street, Portland Place."

I have no doubt that Mr. Willoughby Scraggs gave a most satisfactory answer to this objection: but on a sudden there arose such an infernal trumpeting from the adjoining horse-barracks, that the answer did not reach my ears.

L O N D O N . L Y R I C S .

CHRISTMAS OUT OF TOWN.

For many a winter in Billiter-lane
My wife, Mrs. Brown, was not heard to complain ;
At Christmas the family met there to dine
On beef and plum-pudding, and turkey and chine.
Our bark has now taken a contrary heel,
My wife has found out that the sea is genteel.
To Brighton we duly go scampering down,
For nobody now spends his Christmas in Town.

Our register-stoves, and our crimson-baized doors,
Our weather-proof walls, and our carpeted floors,
Our casements well-fitted to stem the North wind,
Our arm-chair and sofa, are all left behind.
We lodge on the Steine, in a bow-window'd box,
That beckons up-stairs every Zephyr that knocks ;
The sun hides his head and the elements frown,—
But nobody now spends his Christmas in Town.

In Billiter-lane, at this mirth-moving time,
The lamplighter brought us his annual rhyme,
The tricks of Grimaldi were sure to be seen,
We carved a twelfth-cake, and we drew king and queen ;
These pastimes gave oil to Time's round-about wheel,
Before we began to be growing genteel :
'Twas all very well for a cockney or clown,
But nobody now spends his Christmas in Town.

At Brighton I'm stuck up in Donaldson's shop,
Or walk upon bricks till I'm ready to drop ;
Throw stones at an anchor, look out for a skiff,
Or view the Chain-pier from the top of the cliff ;

Till winds from all quarters oblige me to halt,
 With an eye full of sand, and a mouth full of salt.
 Yet still I am suffering with folks of renown,
 For nobody now spends his Christmas in Town.

In gallop the winds, at the full of the moon,
 And puff up my carpet like Sadler's balloon;
 My drawing-room rug is besprinkled with soot,
 And there is not a lock in the house that will shut.
 At Mahomet's steam-bath I lean on my cane,
 And murmur in secret—"Oh, Billiter-lane!"
 But would not express what I think for a crown,
 For nobody now spends his Christmas in Town.

The Duke and the Earl are no cronies of mine,
 His Majesty never invites me to dine;
 The Marquess won't speak, when we meet on the pier,
 Which makes me suspect that I'm *nobody* here.
 If that be the case, why then welcome again
 Twelfth-cake and snap-dragon in Billiter-lane.
 Next winter I'll prove to my dear Mrs. Brown,
 That *Nobody* now spends his Christmas in Town.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

'Twas June, and many a gossip wench,
 Child-freighted trod the Central Mall;
 I gain'd a white unpeopled bench,
 And gaz'd upon the long Canal.
 Beside me soon, in motley talk,
 Boys, nursemaids sat, a varying race;
 At length two females cross'd the walk,
 And occupied the vacant space.

In years they seemed some forty-four,
 Of dwarfish stature, vulgar mien;
 A bonnet of black silk each wore,
 And each a gown of bombazeen:
 And, while in loud and careless tones
 They dwelt upon their own concerns,
 Ere long I learn'd that Mrs. Jones
 Was one, and one was Mrs. Burns.

They talk'd of little Jane and John,
And hoped they'd come before 'twas dark,
'Then wonder'd why, with pattens on,
One might not walk across the Park:
They call'd it far to Camden-town,
Yet hoped to reach it by-and-bye;
And thought it strange, since flour was down,
That bread should still continue high.

They said, last Monday's heavy gales
Had done a monstrous deal of ill;
Then tried to count the iron rails
That wound up Constitution-hill:
This 'larum sedulous to shun,
I donn'd my gloves, to march away,
When, as I gazed upon the one,
"Good Heavens!" I cried, "'tis Nancy Gray."

'Twas Nancy, whom I led along
The whitened and elastic floor,
Amid mirth's merry dancing throng,
Just two-and-twenty years before.
Though sadly altered, I knew her,
While she, 'twas obvious, knew me not;
But mildly said, "Good evening, Sir,"
And with her comrade left the spot.

"Is this," I cried, in grief profound,
"The fair with whom, eclipsing all,
I traversed Ranelagh's bright round,
Or trod the mazes of Vauxhall?
And is this all that Time can do?
Has Nature nothing else in store?
Is this of lovely twenty-two,
All that remains at forty-four?"

"Could I to such a helpmate cling?
Were such a wedded dowdy mine,
On yonder lamp-post would I swing,
Or plunge in yonder Serpentine!"
I left the Park with eyes askance,
But, ere I enter'd Cleveland-row,
Rude Reason thus threw in her lance,
And dealt self-love a mortal blow.

"Time, at whose touch all mortals bow,
 From either sex his prey secures,
 His scythe, while wounding Nancy's brow,
 Can scarce have smoothly swept o'er yours ;
 By her you plainly were not known :
 Then, while you mourn the alter'd hue
 Of Nancy's face suspect your own
 May be a *little* alter'd too."

THE NEWSPAPER.

CURES for chilblains, corns, and bunnions,
 Welsh procession, leeks and onions ;
 Sad St. Stephen bored by praters,
 Dale and Co., champagne creators ;
 Spain resolved to spurn endurance,
 Economic Life Insurance :
 Young man absent from his own house,
 Body at St. Martin's bonehouse ;
 Search for arms in county Kerry,
 Deals, Honduras, Pondicherry,
 Treadmill, Haydon, Tom and Jerry.

Pall-Mall, Allen, chairs and tables,
 Major Cartwright, iron cables ;
 Smithfield, price of veal and mutton,
 Villa half a mile from Sutton ;
 Yearly meeting, lots of Quakers,
 Freehold farm of forty acres ;
 Duke of Angouleme, despatches,
 Thatch'd house tavern, glees and catches ;
 Cobourg, wonderful attraction,
 Plunket, playhouse, Orange faction,
 Consols eighty and a fraction.
 Sales of sail-cloth, silk and camblet,
 Kean in Shylock, Young in Hamlet ;
 Sad effects of random shooting,
 Mermaid tavern, box at Tooting,
 Water-colour exhibition,
 Kemble's statue, Hone's petition ;
 Chateaubriand, Cape Madeira,
 Longwood, Montholon, O'Meara ;
 Jerry Bentham's lucubrations,
 Hume's critique on army rations,
 Ex-officio informations.

Wapping Dock choke full of barter,
 Senna, sponges, cream of tartar;
 Willow bonnets, lank and limber,
 Mops, molasses, tallow, timber;
 Horse Bazaar, the life of Hayley,
 Little Waddington, Old Bailey;
 Gibbs and Howard, Gunter's ices,
 Thoughts upon the present crisis;
 Sweeting's Alley, sales by taper,
 Lamp, Sir Humphrey, noxious vapour,
 Stocks—— Sum-total—Morning Paper.

THE UPAS IN MARYBONE-LANE.

A TREE grew in Java, whose pestilent rind
 A venom distill'd of the deadliest kind;
 The Dutch sent their felons its juices to draw,
 And who return'd safe, pleaded pardon by law.

Face-muffled, the culprits crept into the vale,
 Advancing from windward to 'scape the death-gale;
 How few the reward of their victory earn'd!
 For ninety-nine perish'd for one who return'd.

Brittania this Upas-tree bought of Mynheer,
 Removed it through Holland, and planted it here;
 'Tis now a stock plant, of the genus Wolf's bane,
 And one of them blossoms in Marybone lane.

The house that surrounds it stands first in a row,
 Two doors, at right angles, swing open below;
 And the children of misery daily steal in,
 And the poison they draw we denominate *Gin*.

There enter the prude, and the reprobate boy,
 The mother of grief, and the daughter of joy,
 The serving-maid slim, and the serving-man stout,
 They quickly steal in, and they slowly reel out.

Surcharged with the venom, some walk forth erect,
 Apparently baffling its deadly effect;
 But, sooner or later, the reckoning arrives,
 And ninety-nine perish for one who survives.

ey cautious advance, with slouch'd bonnet and hat,
 ey enter at this door, they go out at that ;
 ne bear off their burthen with riotous glee,
 t most sink, in sleep, at the foot of the tree.

x, Chancellor Van, the Batavian to thwart,
 is compound of crime, at a sov'reign a quart ;
 gin fetch, per bottle, the price of Champagne,
 d hew down the Upas in Marybone-lane.

AN ACTOR'S MEDITATIONS.

well I remember, when old Drury-lane
 open'd, a child in the Thespian train,
 d a sprite, in a sky-colour'd cloak,
 lanced round the caldron which now I invoke.

is, witches ! an actor's nativity cast !
 long shall this stage-popularity last ?
 ough, jibing beldames. "Ay, laugh well we may :
 arity ! Moonshine ! attend to our lay.

a breath of light air from Frivolity's mouth ;
 ws round the compass, East, West, North and South ;
 ts to all points ; in a moment 'twill steal
 Kemble to Stephens, from Kean to O'Neil.

actor who tugs half his life at the oar
 ounder at sea, or be shipwreck'd on shore ;
 firmly the rudder ; who trusts to the gale
 ill in a sieve for Aleppo may sail."

is, provident hags ! while my circuit I run,
 t I make hay in so fleeting a sun ;
 arlequin public may else shift the scene,
 lean may be Kemble, as Kemble was Kean.

let me the haven of competence reach,
 rief, but two lines, be my leave-taking speech :
 Fortune, farewell ; I am shelter'd from sea ;
 forward cheat others, ye once cheated me.

THE MINSTREL.

THERE sits a man near Sadler's Wells,
 Whose limb-excited peal of bells
 Disuse will never moulder :
 Each elbow, by a skilful twist,
 Rings one, one rings from either wrist,
 And one from either shoulder.

Each foot, bell-mounted, aids the din ;
 Each knee, with nodding bell, chimes in
 Its phil-harmonic clapper.
 One bell sends forth a louder note
 From that round ball which tops the throat,
 By bruisers called the napper.

Thus, sightless, by the river side
 He tunes his lays, like him who cried
 "Descend from heaven, Urania,"
 But not as poor : his wiser stave
 Is, like the laureat's, mere God save
 The King—not Rule Britannia.

Though but a single tune he knows,
 His gains are far exceeding those
 Of pass-supported Homer :
 He keeps the wolf outside the door,
 And, doing that, to call him poor
 Were, certes, a misnomer.

The school-boy lags astride the rail,
 The milkman drops his clinking pail,
 The serving-maid her pitcher ;
 The painter quits th' unwhiten'd fence,
 To greet with tributary pence
 This general bewitcher.

See ! where he nods his pealing brow,
 Now strikes a fifth, a second now,
 In regular confusion ;
 But, ere he finishes the strain,
 Da capo goes his pate again,
 The key-note of conclusion.

Satire, suspend your baseless wit,
 The tuneful tribe may *sometimes* hit,
 On patrons bent on giving.
 Here's one, at least, obscurely bred,
 Who by the *labour of his head*
 Picks up a decent living!

STAGE WEDLOCK.

FARRER, Thalia's dear delight,
 Can I forget that fatal night
 Of grief, unstain'd by fiction,
 (Even now the recollection damps)
 When Wroughton led thee to the lamps
 In graceful valediction?

This Derby prize by Hymen won,
 Again the God made bold to run
 Beneath Thalia's steerage;
 Sent forth a second Earl to woo,
 And captivating Brunton too,
 Exalted to the peerage.

Awhile no actress sought his shrine;
 When lovely Searle, in Columbine,
 Each heart held "cabin'd, cribb'd in:"
 Her dark-blue eye, and tresses loose,
 Made the whole town dub Mother Goose
Chef-d'œuvre of Tom Dibdin.

"Hail, feather'd Conjuror!" I cried,
 "September's dish, Saint Michael's pride,
 Theatric gold collector:
 I pledge thee, bird, in Circe's cup!"—
 But Heathcote, ring in hand, ripp'd up
 The Capitol's protector.

Thrice vanquish'd thus, on Thespian soil,
 Heart-whole awhile, from Cupid's toil,
 I caught a fleeting furlough:
 Gay's Newgate Opera charm'd me then,
 But Polly sang her requiem when
 Fair Bolton changed to Thurlow.

These wounds some substitute might heal ;
 But what bold mortal bade O'Neil
 Renounce her tragic station ?
 Taste, talent, beauty to trepan—
 By Heaven, I wonder how the man
 Escaped assassination !

I felt half bent to wing my way
 With Werter, on whose table lay
 Emilia Galoti :
 Stunn'd, like a skater by a fall.
 I saw with unconcern Hughes Ball
 Elope with Mercandotti.

'Tis thus that prowling round Love's fold,
 Hymen, by sufferance made bold,
 (Too bold for one of his age,)
 Presumes behind the scenes to go,
 Where only Cupid used to show
 His mythologic visage.

Would these bold suitors wield the fork,
 And dip, as sailors dip for pork,
 Or urchins at a barrow,
 First come, first take, one would not care :
 But pick and choose was never fair
 At Eton or at Harrow.

Gain we no safeguard from the laws ?
 Contains the Marriage Act no clause
 To hush Saint Martin's steeple ;
 To bind the public's daughters sure,
 And from stage larceny secure
 Us poor play-going people ?

No ! Eldon, all depends on thee :
 Wards of thy Court let heroines be,
 Who to stage wealth have risen ;
 And then, if lovers ladders climb,
 Contempt of Court will be their crime,
 The Fleet will be their prison.

DOCTOR GALL,

I sing of the organs and fibres
 That ramble about in the brains ;
 Avaunt ! ye irreverent jibbers,
 Or stay and be wise for your pains.
 All heads were of yore on a level,
 One could not tell clever from dull,
 Till I, like Le Sage's lame devil,
 Unroof'd with a touch every skull.
 Oh, I am the mental dissector,
 I fathom the wits of you all,
 Then come in a crowd to the lecture
 Of craniological Gall.

The passions, or active or passive,
 Exposed by my magical spells,
 As busy as bees in a glass hive,
 Are seen in their separate cells.
 Old Momus, who wanted a casement
 Whence all in the heart might be read,
 Were he living, would stare with amazement
 To find what he wants in the head.

There 's an organ for strains amoroso,
 Just under the edge of the wig,
 An organ for writing but so-so,
 For driving a tilbury gig ;
 An organ for boxers, for stoics,
 For giving booksellers a lift,
 For marching the zig-zag heroics,
 And editing Jonathan Swift.

I raise in match-making a rumpus,
 And Cupid his fame must impart
 Henceforth with a rule and a compass,
 Instead of a bow and a dart.
 " Dear Madame, your eye-brow is horrid ;
 And, Captain, too broad is your pate ;
 I see by that bump on your forehead
 You 're shockingly dull *tête-à-tête*.

When practice has made my book plainer
 To manhood, to age, and to youth,
 I 'll build, like the genius Phanor,
 In London a palace of truth.
 Then fibs, ah, beware bow you tell 'em,
 Reflect how pellucid the skull,
 Whose downright sincere cerebellum
 Must render all flattery null.

Your friend brings a play out at Drury,
 'Tis hooted and damn'd in the pit;
 Your organ of friendship 's all fury,
 But what says your organ of wit?
 "Our laughter next time prithee stir, man,
 We don't pay our money to weep;
 Your play must have come from the German,
 It set all the boxes asleep."

At first, all will be in a bustle;
 The eye will, from ignorance, swerve,
 And some will abuse the wrong muscle,
 And some will adore the wrong nerve.
 In love should your hearts then be sporting,
 Your heads on one level to bring,
 You must go in your nightcaps a-courting,
 As if you were going to swing.

Yet some happy mortals, all virtue,
 Have sentiment just as they should,
 Their occiput nought can do hurt to,
 Each organ's an organ of good;
 Such couples angelic, when mated,
 To bid all concealment retire,
 Should seek Hymen's alter bald-pated,
 And throw both their wigs in his fire.

My system, from great A to Izzard,
 You now, my good friends, may descry,
 Not Shakspeare's Bermudean wizard
 Was half so enchanting as I.
 His magic a Tempest could smother,
 But mine the soul's hurricane clears,
 By exposing your heads to each other,
 And setting those heads by the ears.

Oh, I am the mental dissector,
 I fathom the wits of you all ;
 So here is an end to the lecture
 Of craniological Gall.

LONDON MISNOMERS.*

From Park Lane to Wapping, by day and by night,
 I've many a year been a roamer,
 And find that no lawyer can London indict,
 Each street, ev'ry lane's a misnomer.
 I find Broad Street, St. Giles's, a poor narrow nook,
 Battle Bridge is unconscious of slaughter,
 Duke's Place cannot muster the ghost of a duke,
 And Brook Street is wanting in water.

I went to Cornhill for a bushel of wheat,
 And sought it in vain ev'ry shop in,
 The Hermitage offered a tranquil retreat,
 For the jolly Jack hermits of Wapping.
 Spring Gardens, all wintry appear on the wane,
 Sun Alley's an absolute blinder,
 Mount Street is a level, and Bearbinder Lane
 Has neither a bear nor a binder.

No football is kicked up and down in Pall Mall,
 Change Alley, alas ! never varies,
 The Serpentine river's a straitened canal,
 Milk Street is denuded of dairies.
 Knightsbridge, void of tournaments, lies calm and still,
 Butcher Row cannot boast of a cleaver,
 And (tho' it abuts on his garden) Hay Hill
 Won't give Devon's duke the hay fever.

The Cockpit's the focus of law, not of sport,
 Water Lane is affected with dryness,
 And, spite of its gorgeous approach, Prince's Court
 Is a sorry abode for his Highness.
 From Baker Street North all the bakers have fled,
 So, in verse not quite equal to Homer,
 Methinks I have proved what at starting I said,
 That London's one mighty misnomer.

* The same play upon words has afforded the subject of a song upon Surnames.—(En.)

BRIDGE STREET BLACKFRIARS.

Pastor cum traheret, &c.

As near Blackfriars, "sad by fits,"
Macadam into dwarfish bits
Broke many a giant pebble,
Old Thames upraised his watery pate,
And sang the smooth contractor's fate
In this unwelcome treble :—

"Vainly you wield yon pounding axe ;
All Bridewell with combined attacks
Shall mar your undertakings ;
White Portland's sons around you pour
The reign of granite, to restore
And break up your upbreakings.

"Ah me ! what ills each house beset,
From horse or foot, or dry or wet,
From chimney-top to basement !
The Albion mourns her sullied walls,
And Waithman veils his hundred shawls
Beneath a spattered casement !

"What wild pedestrians in a ring
Round Johnny Wilkes's column cling
'To 'scape from oxen tossing !
Awhile they halt, then, sore afraid,
Dart different ways, and leave unpaid
The Black who sweeps the crossing.

"In vain you plead St. James's Square,
Grateful to dames, who carol there
Love-strains in measure Sapphic :
They well may like your coat of stone ;
But, child of dust, reflect upon
The difference of "Traffic."

"O'er your smooth convex, coach or car
Steal on the traveller, from afar,

As fleetly as the wind does !
Binding whole troops to Charon's keel,
As Juggernaut with rolling wheel
Depopulates the Hindoos.

“ Eyes should be sharp, for mortal ears
Serve not to shun the car that steers
O'er your insidious surface :
Lo ! while I sing, yon heedless hack
Has *poled* a deaf old woman's back,
And thrown her down on her face.

“ But oh ! when droves of sheep and pigs
With countless stockbrokers in gigs
Are mix'd—can aught be minded ?
Can mortal sight be free to choose,
Or bunged up by your sable ooze,
Or by your white dust blinded ?

“ Ne'er did my reflux billows kiss
So traitorous a shore as this !
'Tis sad beyond endurance,
Such woful accidents to meet,
And see Death riot in a street
Surcharged with Life Assurance.

“ Soon from my stream the two Lord Mayors
Debarking at Blackfriars'-stairs,
Shall notice your behaviour :
In their huge Brobdignag will they
Not grumble to behold you play
The Lilliputian paviour ?

“ Go then, Colossus, stick to roads,
But metropolitan abodes
Leave by your pick-axe undone ;
Go delve in some less stubborn soil,
You'll find it an Utopian toil
To mend the ways of London.”

THE CHURCH IN LANGHAM PLACE.

“WHOEVER walks through London streets,”
 Said Momus to the Son of Saturn,
 “Each day new edifices meets
 Of queer proportion, queerer pattern :
 If thou, O cloud-compelling god,
 Wilt aid me with thy special grace,
 I, too, will wield my motley hod,
 And build a church in Langham-place.”

“Agreed,” the Thunderer cries : “go plant
 Thine edifice, I care not how ill ;
 Take notice, Earth, I hereby grant
Carte blanche of mortar, stone, and trowel.
 Go, Hermes, Hercules, and Mars,
 Fraught with these bills on Henry Hase,
 Drop with yon jester from the stars,
 And build a church in Langham-place.”

Down, four in hand, to earth they go,
 Pass by Palladio, Wren, and Inigo,
 Contracting for their job, to show
 How far four gods can make a guinea go.
 This plan was Doric, ergo bad,
 And that Ionic, ergo base ;
 No proper model could be bad,
 To shape this church in Langham-place.

In deep confab they pass'd two hours ;
 Alcides on his club of tough oak
 Leant, and exclaim'd, “Martello towers
 Lie scatter'd on the coast of Suffolk :
 Let one of those toward London swerve,
 Mars, out of war, they're out of place ;
 What can they better do, than serve
 To form a church in Langham-place !”

The word was said, the deed was done,
 Light Hermes toil'd in vain to stir it,
 When, with a kick, Alcmena's son
 Soon tilted down the granite turret.

Like a huge hogshead up to town
The martial structure roll'd apace,
And, mortar-coated, settled down
Into a church in Langham-place.

But, ere with belfry or with bell
They graced its top, its side with casement,
They found an unexplored shell
Alive and burning at its basement.
The channell'd air now upward drew
Flame after flame, in lurid race,
And gave a sort of glass-house hue
To their new church in Langham-place.

" 'Twill never do," Alcides cried,
" The Atlas will indict for arson,"
While Momus carelessly replied—
" Phoo! never mind it—smoke the parson!"
Mars, at a push, had wit at will,
And said, " Your joint misgivings chase,
This round Martello tower shall still
Be a new church in Langham-place.

" To Ætna's red Vulcanian steeps,
Fly, Mercury, on feather'd sandal,
And, when the giant Titan sleeps,
Snatch, god of thieves, his hugh bed-candle.
Bear thence its tall extinguisher,
This conflagration to efface,
'Twill added dignity confer
On our new church in Langham-place."

The cone up-tilted, Momus bawls—
" Attention, all our loving people,
Here Mars's tower affords us walls,
And Titan's candlestick a steeple:
Our fane, thus martially endow'd,
Soon may some Boanerges grace,
And ' Son of Thunder,' draw the crowd
To our new church in Langham-place!"

MORNING CALLS.

Amid the reams of new joint schemes
 With which the press abounds,
 To give us ease, cheap milk and cheese,
 And turn our pence to pounds ;
 No patriot yet has torn the net
 That social life enthrals,
 Denounc'd the crime of killing Time,
 And banished Morning Calls.

When, spurning sports, in Rufus' courts,
 Grim Law coif-headed stalks ;
 'Twixt three and four when merchants pour
 Round Gresham's murmuring walks ;
 When, with bent knees, our kind M.P.'s
 Give up e'en Tattersall's
 On bills to sit,—'tis surely fit
 We give up Morning Calls.

On clattering feet up Regent-street
 To Portland-place you roam,
 Where Shoulder-tag surveys your nag,
 And answers—"Not at home."
 Thus far you win ; but, if let in,
 The conversation draws
 'Through hum-drum cheeks—what mortal seeks
 Aught else at Morning Calls ?

Your steed, all dust, you heedless trust
 To some lad standing idle ;
 But while you stay he trots away,
 And pawns your girth and bridle.
 Your case you state ; the magistrate
 Cries—"Why not go to stalls ?
 When loungers meet, let horses eat,
 And have their Morning Calls."

To say that town is emptier grown,
 That Spanish bonds look glum,
 That Madame Pasta's gone at last,
 And Ma'amselle Garcia's come ;

To say you fear the atmosphere
 Is grown too hot for balls,
 Is all that they can have to say
 Who meet at Morning Calls.

While Fashion's dames clung round St. James,
 The deed might soon be done ;
 But now when ton's so bulky grown
 She claims all Paddington,
 From Maida-hill to Pentonville,
 The very thought appals,—
 I really will bring in a bill
 To banish Morning Calls !

THE TWO SISTERS.

Born of a widow tall and dark,
 Whose head-piece ne'er at whist errs ;
 Where York Gate guards the Regent's Park,
 There dwelt two loving sisters.

Gertrude, ere twelve years old, would quote
 John Locke, and took to wisdom ;
 Emma (I happen well to know't)
 On all such topics is dumb.

The stars that gem yon vaulted dome
 Are swept by Gertrude's besom ;
 Emma, unless when driven home
 From Almack's, never sees 'em.

Gertrude o'er Werner's Scale will run
 Slate, limestone, quartz, and granite,
 And name the strata, one by one,
 That coat our ziz-zag planet.

But Emma, bent on ball or ront,
 Soon of such converse weary is,
 And even nothing knows about
 The O-o-litic Series.

Gertrude, unmoved by doubt a jot,
 Knows from the "Sketch" of Evans
 What dwarfs in faith descend, and what
 Tall Titans scale the heavens.

The grand piano Emma greets
 With fingers light and plastic ;
 But never like her sister beats
 The drum ecclesiastic.

That, dipp'd in blue, with lofty air
 Men's would-be Queen discovers ;
This, dress'd in white, seems not to care
 If men prove foes or lovers.

'Twixt sense and folly free to choose,
 So different, so unequal,
 Can man dwell long in doubt ? My Muse
 With wonder sings the sequel !

Darts oft-times fly of merit wide—
 (So wills the purblind urchin)—
 Emma, light Emma, blooms a bride,
 And Gertrude fades a virgin !

TABLE TALK.

To weave a culinary clue,
 When to eschew, and what to chew,
 Where shun, and where take rations,
 I sing. Attend, ye diners-out,
 And, if my numbers please you, shout
 "Hear, hear !" in acclamations.

There are who treat you, once a year,
 To the same stupid set ; good cheer
 Such hardship cannot soften,
 To listen to the self-same dunce,
 At the same leaden table, once
 Per annum 's once too often.

Rather than that, mix on my plate
With men I like the meat I hate—
Colman with pig and treacle ;
Luttrell with ven'son-pasty join,
Lord Normanby with orange wine,
And rabbit-pie with Jekyll.

Add to George Lambe a sable snipe,
Conjoin with Captain Morris tripe
By parsley-roots made denser ;
Mix Macintosh with mack'rel, with
Calves-head and bacon Sidney Smith,
And mutton-broth with Spencer.

Shun sitting next the wight whose drone
Bores, *sotto voce*, you alone
With flat colloquial pressure ;
Debarr'd from general talk, you droop
Beneath his buzz, from orient Soup
To occidental Cheshire.

He who can only talk with one,
Should stay at home and talk with none—
At all events, to strangers,
Like village epitaphs of yore,
He ought to cry "Long time I bore,"
To warn them of their dangers.

There are whose kind inquiries scan
Your total kindred, man by man,
Son, brother, cousin, joining,
They ask about your wife, who's dead,
And eulogize your uncle Ned,
Who swung last week for coining.

When join'd to such a son of prate,
His queries I anticipate,
And thus my lee-way fetch up—
"Sir, all my relatives, I vow,
Are perfectly in health—and now
I'd thank you for the ketchup !"

Others there are who but retail
Their breakfast journal, now grown stale,

In print ere day was dawning ;
When folks like these sit next to me,
They send me dinnerless to tea ;
One cannot chew while yawning.

Seat not good talkers one next one,
As Jacquier beards the Clarendon ;
Thus shrouded you undo 'em ;
Rather confront them, face to face,
Like Holles Street and Harewood Place,
And let the town run through 'em.

Poets are dangerous to sit nigh ;
You waft their praises to the sky,
And when you think you're stirring
Their gratitude, they bite you—(That's
The reason I object to cats ;
They scratch amid their purring.)

For those who ask you if you "malt,"
Who "beg your pardon" for the salt,
And ape our upper grandees,
By wondering folks can touch port wine ;
That, reader, 's your affair, not mine ;
I never mess with dandies.

Relations mix not kindly ; shun
Inviting brothers ; sire and son
Is not a wise selection :
Too intimate, they either jar
In converse, or the evening mar
By mutual circumspection.

Lawyers are apt to think the view
That interests them must interest you ;
Hence they appear at table
Or supereloquent, or dumb,
Fluent as nightingales, or mum
As horses in a stable.

When men amuse their fellow guests
With Crank and Jones, or Justice Best's
Harangue in Dobbs and Ryal !
The host, beneath whose roof they sit,
Must be a puny judge of wit,
Who grants them a new trial.

Shun technicals in each extreme ;
 Exclusive talk, whate'er the theme,
 The proper boundary passes ;
 Nobles as much offend, whose clack's
 For ever running on Almack's,
 As brokers on molasses.

I knew a man, from glass to delf,
 Who knew of nothing but himself,
 Till check'd by a vertigo ;
 The party who beheld him "floor'd,"
 Bent o'er the liberated board,
 And cried, "Hic jacet ego."

Some aim to tell a thing that hit
 Where last they dined ; what there was wit,
 Here meets rebuffs and crosses.
 Jokes are like trees ; their place of birth
 Best suits them ; stuck in foreign earth,
 They perish in the process.

Think, reader, of the few who groan
 For any ailments save their own ;
 The world, from peer to peasant,
 Is heedless of your cough or gout ;
 Then pr'ythee, when you next dine out,
 Go arm'd with something pleasant.

Nay, even the very soil that nursed
 The plant, will sometimes kill what erst
 It nurtured in full glory.
 Like causes will not always move
 To similar effect ; to prove
 The fact, I'll tell a story.

Close to that spot where Stuart turns
 His back upon the clubs, and spurns
 The earth, a marble fixture,
 We dined ; well match'd, for pleasure met,
 Wits, poets, peers, a jovial set
 In miscellaneous mixture.

Each card turn'd up a trump, the glee,
 The catch went round, from eight to three,

Decorum scorn'd to own us ;
 We joked, we banter'd, laugh'd, and roar'd
 Till high above the welkin soar'd
 The helpmate of Tithonus.

Care kept aloof, each social soul
 A brother hail'd, Joy fill'd the bowl,
 And humour crown'd the medley,
 Till royal Charles, roused by the fun,
 Look'd toward Whitehall, and thought his son
 Was rioting with Sedley.

"Gad, John, this is a glorious joke—"
 (Thus to our host his Highness spoke)—
 "The vicar with his Nappy
 Would give an eye for this night's freak—
 Suppose we meet again next week—"
 John bow'd, and was too "happy."

'The day arrived—'twas seven—we met :
 Wits, poets, peers, the self-same set,
 Each hail'd a joyous brother.
 But in the blithe and débonnaire,
 Saying, alas ! is one affair,
 And doing is another.

Nature unkind, we turn'd to Art ;
 Heavens ! how we labour'd to be smart :
 Zug sang a song in German :
 We might as well have play'd at chess ;
 All dropp'd as dead-born from the press
 As last year's Spital sermon.

Ah ! Merriment ! when men entrap
 Thy bells, and women steal thy cap,
 They think they have trepanu'd thee.
 Delusive thought ! aloof and dumb,
 'Thou wilt not at a bidding come,
 'Though Royalty command thee.

'The rich, who sigh for thee ; the great,
 Who court thy smiles with gilded plate,
 But clasp thy cloudy follies :
 I've known thee turn, in Portman Square,
 From Burgundy and Hock, to share
 A pint of Port at Dolly's.

Races at Ascot, tours in Wales,
 White-bait at Greenwich oft-times fail,
 To wake thee from thy slumbers.
 Ev'n now, so prone art thou to fly,
 Ungrateful nymph ! thou'rt fighting shy
 Of these narcotic numbers.

THE POET OF FASHION.

His book is successful, he's steep'd in renown,
 His lyric effusions have tickled the town ;
 Dukes, dowagers, dandies, are eager to trace
 The fountain of verse in the verse-maker's face ;
 While, proud as Apollo, with peers *tête-à-tête*,
 From Monday till Saturday dining off plate,
 His heart full of hope, and his head full of gain,
 The Poet of Fashion dines out in Park Lane.

Now lean-jointured widows, who seldom draw corks,
 Whose tea-spoons do duty for knives and for forks,
 Send forth, vellum-cover'd, a six o'clock card,
 And get up a dinner to peep at the bard :
 Veal, sweetbread, boil'd chickens, and tongue, crown the cloth,
 And soup *à la reine*, little better than broth :
 While, past his meridian, but still with some heat.
 The Poet of Fashion dines out in Sloane Street.

Enroll'd in the tribe who subsist by their wits,
 Remember'd by starts, and forgotten by fits,
 Now artists and actors the bardling engage,
 To squib in the journals, and write for the stage.
 Now soup *à la reine* bends the knee to ox-cheek,
 And chickens and tongue bow to bubble and squeak—
 While, still in translation employ'd by "The Row,"
 The Poet of Fashion dines out in Soho.

Push'd down from Parnassus to Phlegethon's brink,
 Toss'd, torn, and trunk-lining, but still with some ink,
 Now squab city misses their albums expand,
 And woo the worn rhymers for "something off-hand ;"
 No longer with stilted effrontery fraught,
 Bucklersbury now seeks what St. James's once sought,
 And (O what a classical haunt for a bard !)
 The Poet of Fashion dines out in Barge Yard.

THE CLAPHAM CHALYBEATE.

Who has e'er been at Clapham must needs know the pond
 That belongs to Sir Barnaby Sturch :
 'Tis well stock'd with fish ; and the knight's rather fond
 Of bobbing for tench or for perch.

When he draws up his line, to decide if all's right,
 Moist drops o'er his pantaloons dribble ;
 Though seldom, if ever, beguiled by a bite,
 He now and then boast of a nibble.

Vulgar mud, very like vulgar men, will encroach
 Unchecked by the spade and the rake ;
 In process of time it enveloped the roach
 In Sir Barnaby's Lilliput lake.

Five workmen, well armed, and denuded of shoes,
 Now fearlessly delved in the flood ;
 To steal unawares on the Empress of Ooze,
 And cart off her insolent mud.

The innocent natives were borne from the bog,
 Eel, minnow, and toad, felt the shovel,
 And lizard-like eft lay with fugitive frog
 In a clay-built extempore hovel.

The men worked away with their hands and their feet,
 And delved in a regular ring ;
 When lo ! as their taskword was all but complete,
 They wakened a mineral spring.

" We've found a *Chalybeate*, sir," cried the men ;
 " We halt till we know what your wish is"—
 " Keep it safe," quoth the knight, " till you've finish'd, and then
 Throw it back with the rest of the fishes."



THE CAVE OF TROPHONIUS.

ORCHOMENOS once had a king,
 This king had a son called Trophonius,
 Who built a stone fane round a spring
 Of Phœbus, surnamed the Harmonious.

The god, when the youth asked for pelf,
Despatched him with Pluto to sup;
For Earth in her maw caught the elf,
And ate the poor architect up.

Bœotia was plagued with a drought,
The natives, a goblet too low,
Went poking for well-springs about,
With pickaxe, and shovel, and hoe.
“Dry Greeks,” cried a voice in the breeze,
“If your plan be to moisten your clay,
Go follow yon army of bees,
And halt where they settle—away!”

To the rocks, armed with ladle and pan,
Intent but to tipple and chew,
The sons of North Attica ran
And fled where the honey-fraught flew.
They tracked to a cavern the hive,
Where, healthy, and not at all grown,
They found young Trophonius live,
Like a toad in a segment of stone.

The youth gave his finders a rod,
Whose point with a tremulous swing
Would vibrate awhile on the sod,
Then point where to probe for a spring.
In grateful requital, the Greeks,
Securing in cisterns the tide,
Extoll'd him with water-logg'd cheeks,
And made him a god when he died.

Anointed with unguents and oils,
To his fane, in the bramble-girt hollow,
They bore in their hands votive spoils,
And dubb'd him the Son of Apollo;
They proffer'd him bees-wax and honey.
In milk-white habiliments clad,
Some enter'd the cave, looking funny,
But all came away looking sad.

When Greece to the Crescent bent low,
And Art found in Athens a grave,
Lord Elgin, with pick-axe and hoe,
Dug deep for the bramble-girt cave.

He bore it o'er mountain and heath,
And, aided by ocean and air,
Immovably placed it beneath
The mansion of London's Lord Mayor.

There, entering on hands and on knees,
Bæotian saints still we find,
Led by females, as busy as bees,
Who leave their drone helpmates behind
In quest of the well-spring of Grace,
Aloft through the cavern they crawl,
And meet, face to sanctified face,
In his Lordship's Egyptian Hall.

There Zealanders, tarr'd and tattoo'd,
And red-ochred chiefs meet the sight;
And water and tubs round are strow'd
For washing the Blackamoor white:
And Mummary revels and feasts,
And Reason deep slumbering nods;
And Folly and Farce are the priests,
And Monkeys and Leeks are the gods.

There, Scotia, thy big Boanerges
His thunderbolt hurls on the ear,
Asserts lack of lucre, and urges,
His watch on a pawnbroker peer.
No homily there comes amiss,
Provided the text is "*Qui dat*,"
And the honey-tongued Reverend This
Responds to the Reverend That.

Then deem not, Trophonius, too tragic
The fate that attends thy retreat:
Though borne from Bæotia, its magic
Still tends it in Mansion House Street.
As long as thy priests call for money
From widow and maid, man and lad;
Though some may walk in looking funny,
Yet all will walk out looking sad.

NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOURS.

My wife and I live, *comme il faut*,
 At number Six in Crosby Row :
 So few our household labours,
 We quickly turn from joints and pies,
 To use two tongues and twice two eyes
 To meliorate our neighbours.

My eye-glass, thanks to Dollond's skill,
 Sweeps up the lane to Mears's Mill.
 While, latticed in her chamber,
 My wife peeps through her window-pane,
 To note who ramble round the lane,
 And who the foot-stile clamber.

This morn the zig-zag man of meat
 Trotted, tray-balanced, up the street—
 We saw him halt at Sidney's :
 My wife asserts he left lamb there ;
 But I myself can all but swear
 'Twas mutton-chops and kidneys.

The man who goes about with urns
 Is beckon'd in by Betty Burns :
 The poor girl knows no better :
 But Mrs. Burns should have more sense ;
 That broken tray is mere pretence—
 He brings the girl a letter.

Whether she goes up street for milk,
 Or brings home sugar, pins, or silk,
 That silly wench for ever
 Draws up, pretending at the stile
 To rest herself, while all the while
 She waits for Captain Trevor.

The Captain, when he sees me, turns,
 Seems not to notice Betty Burns,
 And round the pond betakes him,
 Behind the stables of the Bear,
 To get the back way in ; but there
 My wife's back window rakes him.

There go the Freaks again—but bark !
 I hear the gate-bell ring—'tis Bark,
 The glib apothecary,
 Who in his mortar pounds the same
 Of every rumour-wounded dame,
 From Moll to Lady Mary.

“ Well, Mr. Bark,” — “ I’ve found her out,”
 “ Who is she ? ” — “ Not his wife.” — No doubt.”
 “ ’Twas told me by his brother.”
 “ Which brother ? Archibald ? ” — “ No, Fred.
 An old connexion.” — “ So I said.”
 “ The woman’s ” — “ What ? ” — “ His mother.”

“ Who are the comers next to Blake’s ?
 “ At number Four ? ” — “ Yes.” — “ No great shakes—
 Sad junketings and wastings.
 I’ve seen them play in ‘ Days of Yore,’
 He acted Hastings in Jane Shore,
 And she Jane Shore in Hastings.”

“ Pray, Mr. Bark, what party drove
 That dark-brown chariot to the Grove ? ”
 “ The Perry’s, Ma’am, wet Quakers.
 He married Mrs. Hartley Grant,
 Whose father’s uncle’s mother’s aunt
 Liv’d cook at Lady Dacre’s.”

But Sunday is the time, of course,
 When Gossip’s congregated force
 Pours from our central chapel :
 Then hints and anecdotes increase,
 And in the Mansion-house of Peace
 Dark Discord drops her apple.

Ope but a casement, turn a lock,
 The whole row feels th’ electric shock,
 Springs tilt, their blinds up throwing.
 And every ear and every eye
 Darts to one centre, to descry
 Who’s coming or who’s going.

Thus occupied, in Crosby-row,
 We covet not the Grange or Stowe ;
 Pent in by walls and palings,
 Their lordly tenants can’t like us,
 Drop in at tea-time to discuss
 Their neighbours’ faults and failings.

THE GUNPOWDER PLOT.

As, on the fifth day of November,
 I walk'd down Bartholomew-lane,
 I heard a poor Stock-market member
 Thus vent to the pavement his pain.
 The boys had Guy Faux by the girdle,
 Intending to roast him red hot;
 The broker look'd blank at the hurdle,
 And thus sang the Gunpowder Plot.

“ Away with yon ‘ Gunpowder Percy,’
 Commit the old rogue to the flames,
 Grill, barbecue, show him no mercy,
 For plotting to blow up King James.
 That two of a trade wrangle ever,
 I often have heard—who has not ?
 How vain his fantastic endeavour
 To cope with *our* Gunpowder Plot !

“ By us the Welsh Railway's impeded,
 Mine searchers are balk'd in their dip,
 The call to ‘ cash up’ is unheeded
 By holders of Mexican scrip.
 Montezuma we've cut a head shorter,
 The new patent paper we blot,
 London brick's uncemented by mortar,
 And all through our Gunpowder Plot.

“ British silk we have put out of favour,
 Our wives scorn to wear it in cloaks,
 British salt we have spoil'd of its savour,
 Our Real del Monte's a hoax :
 Shareholders, grown wiser, the risk count,
 Determined to know what is what,
 Columbian scrip's at a discount,
 When singed by our Gunpowder Plot.

“ Gwennappe, with its tin and its copper,
 Has now in its shaft sprung a leak,
 The shareholders don't think it proper
 Directors should play hide-and-seek.

THE BLACK JAY.

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THE BLACK JAY.

Down in the Strand, in London's Strand,
From Charing Cross to Ludgate Street,
That is the place where the Black Jay
Has been in, coming through the Strand,
A foreign image-vender stand
Near Somerset's quadrangle.

His coal-black eye, his balanced walk,
His cable apron, white with chalk,
His listless meditation,
His early locks, his sallow cheeks,
His beard of celebrated Greeks,
Proclaim his trade and nation.

Not on that board, as erst, are seen
A tawdry troop; our gracious Queen,

With tresses like a carrot,
A milk-maid with a pea-green pail,
A poodle with a golden tail,
John Wesley, and a parrot ;—

No, far more classic is his stock ;
With ducal Arthur, Milton, Locke,
He bears, unconscious roamer,
Alcmena's Jove-begotten Son,
Cold Abelard's too tepid Nun,
And pass-supported Homer.

See yonder bust adorn'd with curls ;
'Tis hers, the Queen who melted pearls
Marc Antony to wheedle.
Her bark, her banquets, all are fled ;
And Time, who cut her vital thread,
Has only spared her Needle.

Stern Neptune, with his triple prong,
Childe Harold, peer of peerless song,
So frolic Fortune wills it,
Stand next the Son of crazy Paul,
Who hugg'd the intrusive King of Gaul
Upon a raft at Tilsit.

“ Poor vagrant child of want and toil !
The sun that warms thy native soil
Has ripen'd not thy knowledge ;
'Tis obvious, from that vacant air,
Though Padua gave thee birth, thou ne'er
Didst graduate in her College.

“ 'Tis true thou nam'st thy motley freight :
But from what source their birth they date,
Mythology or history,
Old records, or the dreams of youth,
Dark fable, or transparent truth,
Is all to thee a mystery.

“ Come tell me, Vagrant, in a breath,
Alcides' birth, his life, his death,
Recount his dozen labours :
Homer thou know'st ; but of the woes
Of Troy thou'rt ignorant as those
Dark Orange-boys thy neighbours.”

'Twas thus, erect, I deigned to pour
 My shower of lordly pity o'er
 The poor Italian wittol,
 As men are apt to do, to show
 Their vantage-ground o'er those who know
 Just less than their own little.

When lo, methought Prometheus' flame
 Waved o'er a bust of deathless fame,
 And woke to life Childe Harold:
 The Bard aroused me from my dream
 Of pity, alias self-esteem,
 And thus indignant caroll'd;—

“O thou, who thus, in numbers pert
 And petulent, presum'st to flirt
 With Memory's Nine Daughters:
 Whose verse the next trade-winds that blow
 Down narrow Paternoster-row
 Shall 'whelm in Lethe's waters:

“Slight is the difference I see
 Between *yon* Paduan youth and thee;
 He moulds, of Paris plaster,
 An urn by classic Chantrey's laws,—
 And thou a literary vase
 Of would-be alabaster.

“Were I to arbitrate betwixt
 “His terra cotta, plain or mix'd,
 And thy earth-gender'd sonnet,
 Small cause has he th' award to dread:—
 Thy images are in the head,
 And his, poor boy, are on it!”

RETORT LEGAL.

“WHAT with briefs and attending the court, self and clerk,
I'm at my wits' end,” muttered Drone the attorney.
 “I fear 'tis a medical case,” answered Shark—
 “You're so terribly tired by so little a journey.”

THE LEES AND THE LAWSONS.

If you call on the Lees, north of Bloomsbury-square,
 They welcome you blandly, they proffer a chair,
 Decorously mild and well bred :
 Intent on their music, their books, or their pen,
 Employment absorbs their attention, and men
 Seem totally out of their head.

If you call on the Lawsons, in Bloomsbury-place,
 No fabric of order you seem to deface,
 No sober arrangement to break :
 They lounge on the sofa, their manners are odd,
 Men drop in at luncheon, and give them a nod,
 Then run to the sherry and cake.

The house of the Lees has an orderly air,
 It sets to its brethren of brick in the square
 A model from attic to basement :
 The knocker is polish'd, the name is japann'd,
 The step, unpolluted, is sprinkled with sand,
 White blinds veil the drawing-room casement.

The house of the Lawsons is *toute autre chose*,
 It certainly proffers no air of repose,
 For one of the girls always lingers
 Athwart the verandah, alert as an ape,
 To note to her sisters the forthcoming gape,
 Be it monkeys, or Savoyard singers.

Whenever the Lees to the theatre stray,
 The singers who sing, and the players who play,
 Attentive, untalkative, find 'em ;
 With sound to allure them, or sense to attract,
 They rarely turn round, till the end of the act,
 To talk with the party behind 'em.

The Lawsons are bent on a different thing :
 Miss Paton may warble, Miss Ayton may sing,
 To listeners tier above tier :
 They heed not song, character, pathos, or plot,
 But turn their heads back, to converse with a knot
 Of dandies who lounge in the rear.

In life's onward path it has happen'd to me
 With many a Lawson, and many a Lee,
 In parties to mix and to mingle :
 And somehow, in spite of manœuvres and plans,
 I've found that the Lees get united in banna,
 While most of the Lawsons keep single.

Coy Hymen is like the black maker of rum—
 "De more massa call me de more I vont come,"
 He flies from the forward and bold :
 He gives to the coy what he keeps from the kind ;
 The maidens who seek him, the maidens who find,
 Are cast in an opposite mould.

Ye female *gymnasians*, who strive joint by joint,
 Come give to my Lawsons some lessons in point,
 (They can't from their own sex refuse 'em ;)
 Whenever you plan an athletic attack,
 You know, from experience, to jump on man's back
 Is not the right road to his bosom.

THE EXHIBITION.

SAYS Captain John Clay,
 " 'Tis the second of May,
 All the town's in a humming condition,
 Like bees in a hive—
 Shall I give you a drive
 To the Somerset House Exhibition ?"
 " You've tumbled," I answered, " my wish on,
 We'll go to this year's Exhibition :"
 So, light as Queen Mab,
 We enter'd his cab,
 And drove to the new Exhibition.

We first, hard as bone,
 View'd the models in stone,
 And saw, like a turkey a dish on,
 Fair Psyche on Zephyra,
 As spotless as heifers,
 All making an odd Exhibition.

A polish'd defunct politician,
A Kemble,—the drama's magician,
A Mrs. H. Gurney,
A marble attorney ;
And all in this Year's Exhibition.

We then, with our cat-
A-logue stow'd in our hat,
Ascended, with no expedition,
Where Hercules grapples
His larceny apples,
And guards this sublime Exhibition.
Upstairs, in a weary condition,
We mounted this grand Exhibition ,
Saw Boys with a spaniel,
Two Flounders by Daniell,
And all in this Year's Exhibition.

A chief of dragoons
In tight red pantaloons,
Stood looking as fierce as Domitian ;
A big Holofernes,
Whom Judith at her knees
Survey'd in a ticklish condition.
Indeed 'tis a fine Exhibition !
Pray mark in this Year's Exhibition
A fat Captive Negro,
Whose visage made me grow
Quite sad, in this new Exhibition.

There's Jesse Watts Russell,
A Waterloo Bustle,
May Morning—not painted by Titian ;
A Boa Constrictor,
As big as the picture,
And all in this Year's Exhibition.
Indeed 'tis a fine Exhibition,
Pray note in this new Exhibition
A Farebrother Sheriff,
I should not much care if
He graced not this year's Exhibition.

There's mild Caradori,
H. Singleton's Glory,

A head of R. Gooch, a physician,
 Charles Mathews revealing
 His charms to the ceiling,
 And all in this grand Exhibition.
 A Snow-storm, a dresser with Fish on,
 Three Smugglers prepared for sedition,
 Five heads by Sir Thomas—
 Should fate take him from us,
 'Twould be a much worse Exhibition. .

A Juliet by Briggs,
 A Peasant and pigs,
 A doctor descended from Priscian.
 A Miss Charlotte Bestwich;
 Not naming the rest which
 Appear in this year's Exhibition.
 Pray, reader, let no prohibition
 Keep *you* from this year's Exhibition.
 Do but go, and I trust
 That you'll find this a just
 Account of the new Exhibition.

MAGOG'S PROPHECY.

Pastor cum traheret per freta navibus.—Hor. lib. i. od. 15.

As late, of civic glory vain,
 The Lord Mayor drove down Mincing Lane,
 'The progress of the bannered train
 To lengthen, not to shorten;
 Gigantic Magog, vexed with heat,
 Thus to be made the rabble's treat,
 Checked the long march in Tower Street,
 To tell his Lordship's fortune.

“Go, man thy barge for Whitehall Stair,
 Salute th' Exchequer Barons there,
 Then summon round thy civic chair
 To dinner Whigs and Tories;
 Bid dukes and earls thy hustings climb—
 But mark my word, Matthias Prime,
 Ere the tenth hour, the scythe of Time
 Shall amputate thy glories.

Alas ! what leads of fools I see,
 What turbots from the Zuyder Zee,
 What calipash, what calipee,
 What salad and what mustard :
 Heads of the Church and limbs of Law,
 Venders of calico and straw,
 Extend one sympathetic jaw
 To swallow cake and custard.

Thine armour'd knights their steeds discard,
 To quaff thy wine 'through helmet barred,'
 While K.C.B.'s, with bosoms starred,
 Within their circle wedge thee.
 Even now I see thee standing up,
 Raise to thy lip 'the loving cup,'
 Intent its ruby tide to sup,
 And bid thy hearers pledge thee.

But, ah ! how fleeting thy renown !
 Thus treading on the heel of Brown ;
 How vain thy spangled suit, thy gown
 Intended for three winters ;
 Ere Lansdowne's speech is at an end,
 I see a board of lamps descend,
 Whose orbs in bright confusion blend,
 And strew the floor with splinters.

Their smooth contents spread far and near,
 And in one tide impetuous smear
 Knight, waiter, liverymen, and peer :
 Nay, even his Royal Highness
 The falling board no longer props,
 Owns, with amaze, the unwelcome drops,
 And, premature anointment, swaps
 For oozy wet his dryness.

Fear shrinks in many a varied tone,
 Pale Beauty mourns her spotted zone,
 And heads and bleeding knuckles own
 The glittering prostration.
 Behold ! thou wip'st thy crimson chin,
 And all is discord, all is din ;
 While scalded waiters swear thee in
 With many an execration.

Yet, Lucas, smile in Fortune's spite :
Dark mornings often change to bright ;
Ne'er shall this omen harm a wight
 So active and so clever.
How buoyant, how elastic thou !
With a lamp halo round thy brow,
Prophetic Magog dubs thee now
 A Lighter man—than ever."

MISCELLANEOUS PIECES.

IN VERSE.

THE MAMMOTH.

Soon as the deluge ceased to pour
The flood of death from shore to shore,
And verdure smil'd again,
Hatch'd amidst elemental strife,
I sought the upper realms of life,
The tyrant of the plain.

On India's shores my dwelling lay—
Gigantic, as I roam'd for prey,
All nature took to flight!
At my approach the lofty woods
Submissive bow'd, the trembling floods
Drew backward with affright.

Creation felt a general shock :
The screaming eagle sought the rock,
The elephant was slain ;
Affrighted, men to caves retreat,
Tigers and leopards lick'd my feet,
And own'd my lordly reign.

'Thus many moons my course I ran,
The general foe of beast and man,
Till on one fatal day
The lion led the bestial train,
And I, alas ! was quickly slain,
As gorg'd with food I lay.

With lightning's speed the rumour spread—
 "Rejoice! rejoice! the Mammoth's dead,"
 Resounds from shore to shore,
 Promona, Ceres, thrive again,
 And, laughing, join the choral strain,
 "The mammoth is no more."

In earth's deep caverns long immur'd,
 My skeleton, from view secur'd,
 In dull oblivion lay;
 Till late, with industry and toil,
 A youth subdued the stubborn soil,
 And dragg'd me forth to day.

In London now my body's shown,
 And while the crowd o'er every bone
 Incline the curious head,
 They view my form with wond'ring eye,
 And pleas'd in fancied safety, cry—
 "Thank Heav'n, the monster's dead."

O mortals, blind to future ill,
 My race yet lives, it prospers still—
 Nay, start not with surprise:
 Behold, from Corsica's small isle,
 Twin-born in cruelty and guile,
 A second Mammoth rise!

He seeks, on fortune's billows borne,
 A land by revolution torn,
 A prey to civil hate:
 And seizing on a lucky time
 Of Gallic frenzy, Gallic crime,
 Assumes the regal state.

Batavian freedom floats in air,
 The patriot Swiss, in deep despair,
 Deserts his native land;
 While haughty Spain her monarch sees
 Submissive wait, on bended knees,
 The tyrant's dread command.

All Europe o'er the giant stalks,
 Whole nations tremble as he walks,

Extinct their martial fire ;
The Northern Bear lies down to rest,
The Prussian Eagle seeks her nest,
The Austrian bands retire.

Yet, ah ! a storm begins to low'r,
Sate with cruelty and pow'r,
At ease the monster lies ;
Lion of Britain, led by you,
If Europe's sons the fight renew,
A second Mammoth dies.*

VERSES WRITTEN UNDER THE STATUE OF APOLLO
AT PARIS.

THrice welcome to Paris ! bright regent of day,
To the Tuileries boldly advance ;
Oh, shed on this land an enlivening ray,
And smile on regenerate France.

One king and one God we acknowledge no more ;
But, free from the shackles of pride,
Our liberal minds the Pantheon adore,
And worship three consuls beside.

We know that, when hurl'd from the regions of air,
You, nought by misfortune dismay'd,
The flocks of Admetus attended with care,
In the garb of a shepherd array'd.

You sang, and hilarity reign'd through the plains,
And sorrow and care were no more ;
You talk'd of the blessings of peace to the swains,
And the rude din of battle was o'er.

Great Shepherd ! from thee, by despair render'd bold,
A speedy protection we pray
From a Corsican wolf that has enter'd our fold,
And made the whole nation his prey.

* This poem, admirably translated into French by M. Peltier, was widely circulated upon the Continent.—[Ed.]

A long time of peace he pretended to see,
 Yet by war still our nation is curs'd ;
 The country from tyrants he promis'd to free,
 Himself of all tyrants the worst.

Of the joys that from mutual confidence rise,
 He talks with dissembled delight ;
 Yet haunted by terrors, to solitude flies,
 Fast hid at St. Cloud from the sight.

O far-darting God ! with thine arrows of fire,
 Cut short the fell ravisher's reign.
 And give to our country, her soul's chief desire,
 A regal dominion again.

SAPPHIC ODE, WRITTEN AT BONAPARTE'S LEVEE.

Blest as th' initiate sure is he,
 Who at thy levee stood, like me
 And heard and saw thee, all the while,
 Madly threat Britannia's isle.

'Twas this my patriot soul oppress'd,
 And rais'd new anger in my breast ;
 But while I gaz'd, resentment fled,
 And laughter seiz'd me in its stead.

Your eyes shot forth a subtle flame,
 Convulsive anger shook your frame ;
 While, borne on many a foreign tongue,
 My ears with murmur'd wonder rung.

Scared by your looks and accents loud,
 In haste to leave the tittering crowd,
 My duty I forgot to pay ;
 So started, smil'd—and walk'd away !

THE PRINTER'S CALDRON.*

ENE—*A dark room ; in the middle a great caldron burning.
Thunder. Enter three Printer's Devils.*

FIRST DEVIL.

Thrice the watchman gave his knock,

SECOND DEVIL.

Twice,—and once has crow'd the cock ;

THIRD DEVIL.

Our master cries, " 'Tis five o'clock."

ALL.

Now your several schemes display
To make the paper of the day :—

SECOND DEVIL.

Spy, that standing on cold stone,
Names and titles one by one,
Catchest at the doors of fashion,
Haste to bring your motley trash in ;
Packwood's puffs, and state of weather,
Hints of who and who's together,
(Paid, to contradict to-morrow,
Lie, inserted to our sorrow,)
Fluttering follies, light as vapour,
Rise you to the top o' th' paper.

ALL.

Double, double, toil and trouble,
Touch the cash—the nation bubble.

This imitation of the witch scene in Macbeth is a satire upon frivolities of the Morning Post Newspaper, as it was then conducted.—[Ea.]

FIRST DEVIL.

Braham—Soldier tir'd—Mad Bess—
 Case of singular distress,
 Speech of egotistic pleader,
 String of coaches made by Leader,
 Fashionable invalids,
 Morning dresses, widow's weeds,
 Lobby quarrels, satisfaction,
 Rout in Mayfair, crim-con. action,
 Patent soles, that never falter,
 Doctors Brodum and Sir Walter,
 Pun, and vive la bagatelle,
 Schemes to make our paper sell.

ALL.

Double, double, toil and trouble,
 Touch the cash—the nation bubble.

SECOND DEVIL.

Bonaparté, Paris fashions,
 Chapels, Cyprian assignations,
 Captain Sash, the sea-side shark,—
 Slander's arrows, shot i' th' dark.
 Villa of Rochampton Jew,
 Horrid murder done at Kew;
 Queries, critical corrections,
 Galvanistic resurrections,
 'Treatise on the moon's eclipse,
 Paint for cheeks, and salve for lips;
 Stupid pun, berth-strangled jest—
 Portsmouth letter—wind north-west,
 And thus our merit stands confest!

ALL.

Double, double, toil and trouble,
 'Touch the cash—the nation bubble.

THIRD DEVIL.

Cool it with an empty boast,
 'That every day we sell the most,
 'Tis done—behold the Morning Post!

HARLEQUIN'S INVASION.

**LADIES and gentlemen, to-day,
With scenes adapted to th' occasion,
A grand new pantomime we play,
Entitled Harlequin's Invasion.**

**No comic pantomime before
Could ever boast such tricks surprising;
The hero capers Europe o'er—
But hush ! behold the curtain rising.**

**And first the little isle survey,
Where sleeps a peasant boy so hearty ;
That little isle is Corsica,
That peasant boy is Bonaparté.**

**Now lightnings flash, and thunders roar,
Demon of witchcraft hover o'er him ;
And, rising through the stage trap-door,
An evil genius stands before him.**

**His arms in solemn state are cross'd
His voice appals th' amaz'd beholders,
His head in circling clouds is lost,
And crimson pinnions shade his shoulders.**

**" Mortal, awake !" the phantom cries,
" And burst the bonds of fear asunder,
My name is Anarchy—arise !
Thy future fortunes teem with wonder.**

**" To spread my reign the earth around,
Here take this sword, whose magic power
Shall sense, and right, and wrong confound,
And work new wonders ev'ry hour.**

**" Throw off that peasant garb, begin
T' assume the party-colour'd rover,
And, as a sprightly Harlequin,
Trip, lightly trip, all Europe over."**

He spoke, and instant to the view
Begins the curious transformation ;
His mask assumes a sable hue,
His dress a pantomimic fashion.

Now round the stage, in gaudy pride,
Capers the renovated varlet ;
Shakes the lath weapon at his side,
And shines in blue, and white, and scarlet.

High on a rock, his cunning eye
Surveys half Europe at a glance,
Flat Holland, fertile Italy,
Old Spain, and gay regen'rate France.

He strikes with wooden sword the earth,
Which heaves with motion necromantic :
The nations own a second birth,
And trace his steps with gestures antic.

The Pope prepares for war, but soon
All powerful Harlequin disarms him ;
And changing into *Pantaloon*,
Each motion frets, each noise alarms him.

With trembling haste he seeks to join
His daughter *Gallia*, lovely rover !
But she, transform'd to *Columbine*,
Her father scorns, and seeks her lover.

The *Dutchman* next his magic feels,
Changed to the *Clown*, he hobbles after ;
Blundering pursues the light of heels,
Convulsing friends and foes with laughter.

But all their various deeds of sin,
What mortal man has ever reckon'd ?
The mischief plann'd by Harlequin,
Fair *Columbine* is sure to second.

They quickly kill poor *Pantaloon*,
And now our drama's plot grows riper :
Wheno'er they frisk it to some tune,
The *Clown* is forced to *pay the piper*.

Each foreign land he dances through,
In some new garb beholds the hero.
Pagan and Christian, Turk and Jew,
Cromwell, Caligula, and Nero.

A butcher Harlequin appears,
The rapid scene to Egypt flying;
O'er captive Turks his sword uprears,
The stage is strew'd with dead and dying.

Next by the crafty genius taught,
Sportive he tries a doctor's trick;
Presents the bowl with poison fraught,
And kills his own unconscious sick.

Hey! pass! he's back to Europe gone,
All hostile followers disappointed;
Kicks five old women from the throne,
And dubs himself the Lord's anointed.

In close embrace with Columbine,
Pass, gaily pass, the flying hours;
While, prostrate at their blood-stain'd shrine,
Low bend the European powers.

Touch'd by his sword, the morals fly,
The virtues into vices dwindling;
Courage is turn'd to cruelty,
And public faith to private swindling.

With atheist Bishops, jockey Peers,
His hurly-burly court is graced;
Contractors, brewer-charioteers,
Mad Lords, and Duchesses dis-Graced.

And now th' invasion scene comes on;
The patch'd and pie-ball'd renegado
Hurls at Britannia's lofty throne
Full many a mad and proud bravado.

The trembling Clown dissuades in vain,
And finds too late there's no retreating
Whatever Harlequin may gain,
The Clown is sure to get a beating.

They tempt the main, the canvass raise,
 A storm destroys his valiant legions;
 And lo! our closing scene displays
 A grand view of th' infernal regions.

Thus have we, gentlefolks, to-day,
 With pains proportion'd to th' occasion,
 Our piece perform'd; then prithee say,
 How like you Harlequin's Invasion?

ADDRESS SPOKEN BY MRS. MATHEWS AT HULL IN 1808,

In the Entertainment called "Mail-Coach Adventures."

GREAT Garrick, accustomed, in tragical fury,
 To stand unabashed in the regions of Drury,
 Yet, awed and alarmed, felt his valour to fall
 When brought as a witness to Westminster Hall.
 So I, though accustomed in Drury to play,
 My confidence find before you die away.
 Yet, like a good wife, when requested, I come
 Nor venture to speak till my husband is dumb.
 The needle, by impulse magnetic drawn forth,
 In every region still points to the north;
 Though bound to this law with unvaried devotion,
 It wavers and turns with a tremulous motion.
 Even thus, though on wings of delight I pursue
 My tour to the north, to meet friends such as you,
 I waver, and tremble my task to fulfil,
 And dread that the deed may not equal the will.
 My duties are small, I can soon tell their meanings,—
 I'm merely Queen Consort—my Lord's *locum tenens*.
 A volunteer sentry, I follow the track,
 And only mount guard till my husband comes back.
 My province to-night (it will not keep you long)
 Is an Olla Podrida of music and song—
 Mere bagatelle sounds, to make time travel faster,
 And lighten the load of my great lord and master.
 Already I feel so much kindness is here,
 My opening fears by degrees disappear;
 And as the young barrister, new to the station,
 Grows bold at the close of his maiden oration,
 And dashes away with a loftier scope—
 "My Lud, and your Ludship," in figure and trope—
 With added assurance my task I pursue,
 In hopes of a verdict from candour and you.

COMIC SONGS.

SONG—"Mail Coach." (*Air, "The Country Club."*)

ROAD, as I'm a sinner,
I'll get a snack of dinner,
For Lord knows where we sup.
You! waiter! quick, be handy,
Bring a glass of cherry brandy,
To keep my spirits up.
Some gravy soup and mutton,
I'm as hungry as a glutton.
Lord! what a time you stay!
A bottle of good sherry—
I'm determin'd to be merry—
Let Momus rule the day.

(*Enter Mail Guard—horn sounds—Tarra-ra-ra!*)

"All's ready, gentlemen"—Well, then,
If that's the case,
Let go their heads and straightway
Rattle underneath the gateway,
Off we go—away! away!

Four in hand, from Piccadilly,
Off we scamper, willy nilly,
In snug Welsh wigs so neat,
Along the Strand we clatter,
All sulkiness, no chatter.
Wo ho! in Lombard Street,
There a motley pack of railors,
Jows, citizens, and sailors,
From every side approach,
All making odd grimaces,
And quarrelling for places—

This song is given as a specimen of the light frame-work which the unrivalled artist, the late Charles Mathews, used to render so lightful by the whimsical olio introduced between each verse, under the technical name of Patter—a jumble of mimicry, jests, characters, and anecdote, chiefly supplied from his own inexhaustible store.—(F.N.)

“O dear! I’ve missed the coach!”
 “All ready in the York Mail?”—“Yes.”

Tarra-ra-ra. Then
 Let go their heads, and straightway
 Rattle underneath the gateway,
 Off we go—away! away!

What a cavalcade of coaches
 From every side approaches,
 Rare work for man and beast!
 Awhile to bait, take shelter,
 Then gallop helter-skelter,
 Some west and others east.
 Hold tight whene’er we stop, sir,
 Or from the box you’ll drop, sir,
 Which you’ll dislike, no doubt.
 Here, Tom, let go the traces,
 Then away we go in races,
 Four inside and two out.
 Tarra-ra-ra.—Sit fast there.—All right?—Yes. Then
 Let go their heads, and straightway
 Rattle underneath the gateway,
 Off we go—away! away!

PRIVATE THEATRICALS.

AIR—“The Hunting of the Hare.”

CLOUDY mist every valley and hill buries,
 Spurred and booted on sofas we sprawl,
 Back the galloways, put up the tilburies,
 Sad wet weather at Drizzle-down Hall
 One cannot read Waverley twice over cleverly,
 Talents should never lie idle a day,
 Best of Madrigals, Private Theatricals,
 All we want is to settle the play.

Hang a curtain across the back drawing-room,
 Black that staring mahogany door,
 Make the book-room a carpenter’s sawing-room,
 Never mind! cut a hole in the floor.
 We all shall be fair actors—no need of rare actors,
 Settle your characters, bustle away,
 Wind and weather-bound, gladly together bound,
 All we want is to settle the play.

Colonel Strutt is a famous Octavian,
 You, Sir John, shall be Sadi the slave ;
 Hush ! Sir John is a red-hot Moravian,
 He'll dumbfound us by humming a stave :
 Let Dr. Genitive open in Lenitive,
 I'll not disdain it if you'll lead the way ;
 Bravo, Domine ! down with Melpomene—
 All we want is to settle the play.

I'm for Percy, and I'm for Northumberland ;
 I'm for reciting the Jovial Crew ;
 I've done Sheva, and old Mr. Cumberland
 Called it the real original Jew.
 Macbeth makes money come—no, we'll be funny—come—
 No, Polly Honeycomb—Lady Jane Grey ;
 While your busy pates ponder, time dissipates—
 All we want is to settle the play.

Hold, good people—where are your courtesies ?
 Mounting Heaven on Icarus' wings ;
 All are Hamlets, and none are Laertes—
 Pray act something with nothing but kings.
 Romeos all in tears, Beverley Volunteers,
 Ready to fall in tears, choke up the way ;
 Generalissimos hunting bravissimos—
 Devil a private to act in your play.

Sol re-illuminates, call the postilions,
 Off we scamper through Drizzledown Park ,
 Nags and donkeys, barouches and pillions,
 Reach the races before it is dark.
 Comical, stoical, tragic, heroical,
 All statu quo-ical scamper one way ;—
 Best of Madrigals, Private Theatricals,
 Pity one never can settle the play !

THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER.

AIR—"Over the Water to Charley."

I've seen (lucky me !) what you all want to see—
 Good people, give ear to my sonnet—
 I've gazed in the ring on the Muscovy King,
 And I've peeped at the Oldenburg bonnet :

At his sister's approach to get into her coach,
 Her brother steps forward to hand her,
 What ecstasies throb in the hearts of the mob,
 With huzza for the great Alexander!

On bracelet and seal behold his profile
 At the shop too of Laurice and Whittle,
 Nat Lee, hold your prate, Alexander the Great
 Is no Alexander the Little!
 In Lord William's dell, near the Pulteney hotel,
 What multitudes ev'ry day wander!
 They scamper like imps to indulge in a glimpse
 Of the mighty renowned Alexander.

Poor Madame de Stael is quite pushed to the wall
 ('*hasse'd* by the Czar and the Duchess,
 And since his retreat, even Louis *dix-huit*
 Must walk on oblivion's crutches.
 Clerks run from their quills, haberdashers their tills,
 John Bull is a great goosey gander;
 Even Kean is forgot, we are all on the trot
 For a gaze upon great Alexander.

"Have you seen him 's" the talk, Piccadilly's the walk,
 I suppose since it is so, it must be,
 And nobody thinks of that musical sphynx
 Catalani, or great Doctor Busby.
 Anxiety burns every bosom by turns
 To flirt with this royal Philander,
 And happy the wight who can utter at night—
 "This morning I saw Alexander."

Ho dresses with taste, he is small in the waist,
 I behold him with Blucher and Platoff,
 The Hetman appears with his cap on his ears,
 But the Emperor rides with his hat off:
 He sits on his throne with a leg on each zone,
 No monarch on earth can be grander;
 Half an hour after dark, the rails of the Park
 Are scaled to behold Alexander.

When the town was illumed, how his residence bloomed
 With lamps to the balcony fitted,
 I'm told his Cossacks made eleven attacks
 To drink up the oil ere they lit it!

The Chronicle says that he laces in stays—
 Perhaps this is nothing but slander ;
 Since his stay is not long, I will shorten my song
 With huzza for the great Alexander !

THE GRETNA GREEN BLACKSMITH.

Air—"The Sprig of Shillelah."

THOUGH my face is all smutty, not fit to be seen,
 I'm the tinkering parson of Gretna Green,
 With my rang, tang, hammer and nail.
 To look like the ladies is always my plan
 So I roll up my sleeves as high as I can,
 In spite of my vice, and though I am lame,
 I make the sparks fly, and myself raise a flame,
 With my rang, tang, hammer and nail.

In chaises-and-four lovers fly to my cot,
 With folly remembered, and prudence forgot,
 With a rang, tang, hammer and nail.
 Down hill, helter-skelter, they fearlessly move,
 For who ever thinks of a hind wheel in love ?
 So, while the young lady her passion reveals,
 I tack them together—then hammer the wheels,
 With my rang, tang, hammer and nail.

"O dear," says Miss Lucy, a delicate fright in,
 "I was all over rust till they took me to Brighton,
 With rang, tang, hammer and nail.
 Indeed, Mr. Parson, you'll find me no fool,
 I'm a great deal too old to be sent back to school ;
 Captain Shark of the Fourth is the man I adore,
 My Pa is a bear, and my Ma is a bore,
 With their rang, tang, hammer and nail."

But, alas ! ten to one, ere they got back to town,
 My lady is up, and the carriage breaks down,
 With a rang, tang, hammer and nail.
 Of tears my young Madam dissolves in a flood,
 Her head in the clouds, and her feet in the mud,
 Till both, recollecting the cause of the evil,
 Wish carriage, and marriage, and me at the devil,
 With rang, tang, hammer and nail.

I can make a jack-chain, a patten, a knife,
 I forge heavy fetters for husband and wife,
 With my rang, tang, hammer and nail.
 Here Venus and Vulcan their compact renew,
 A partner for life or a tenpenny screw,
 A wedlock, a padlock, I do not care which—
 So the tinker of Gretna is sure to grow rich,
 With his rang, tang, hammer and nail.

ALL THE WORLD'S IN PARIS.

Now's the time to change our clime,
 Commerce shuts his day-book,
 Trade forgets his doubtful debts,
 And Pleasure opes his play-book!
 Age throws off his winter cough,
 Gout forgets his flannel,
 Small and great at Dover wait,
 To cross the British Channel.
 London now is out of town,
 Who in England tarries,
 Who can bear to linger there,
 When all the world's in Paris?

Bagatelle from Clerkenwell,
 Elegance from Aldgate,
 Modish airs from Wapping Stairs,
 And wit from Norton Falgate;
Comme il faut from Butcher Row,
 All are in commotion,
 All incline, like devilled swine,
 To nuzzle through the ocean.
 London now is out of town, &c.

Broken Jews, poetic blues,
 Cortezans and Quakers,
 Players, Peers, and overseers,
 Jockeys, undertakers;
 Paris, who beheld a crew
 Of foreign troops attack her,
 In these may trace a second race
 Of Visigoths to sack her!
 London now is out of town, &c.

Who'd endure a cheap *traiteur*?
Come where better cheer is.
Ape the court, along to sport
A louis d'or at Very's:
He at six, who runs to mix
In Palais Royal follies,
In London town, for half-a-crown,
Must eat a chop at Dolly's.
London now is out of town, &c.

City dames the rage inflames,
They know how to time it,
Mrs. Sims is full of whims,
And hates our foggy climate;
Mrs. Grill is very ill,
Nothing can improve her,
Unless she sees the Taileries,
And waddles through the Louvre.
London now is out of town, &c.

Fortune's duck to change his luck,
Spite of waddling failures,
Hither runs from London duns,
To tick with Calais tailors;
At Tivoli, 'tis who but he,
But while he apes his betters,
He finds the French have got a bench
To nab insolvent debtors!
London now is out of town, &c.

Prudence chides while Fashion guides,
We know which to mind most,
We freely bid, as Boney did,
The devil take the hindmost;
Thus we dance through giddy France
And when we find the fun done,
The piper pay, and steal away
With empty purse to London.
London now is out of town,
Who in England tarries?
Who can bear to linger there,
When all the world's in Paris?

MATRIMONIAL DUTY.

Al.—‘The Pretty Maid of Derby.’

HE.

When we first were man and wife,
And you swore to love for life,
We were quoted as a model, we were quite a show,
Yes, we *de-vote* were, seen
Like King William and his Queen;
What a jewel of a wife was Mrs. John Prevôt!

SHE.

Ay, once I gave to thee, man,
Like Baccus to Philemon,
Now, if I go to Brighton, you’re at Bath I know:
Like the pair who tell the weather,
We are never out together,
One at home, the other gadding, Mr. John Prevôt.

HE.

If a lion’s to be seen,
Old Blucher—Mr. Kean,
You order out the carriage, and away you go
With that gossip, Mrs. Jones;
How you rattle o’er the stones,
You’ve no mercy on the horses, Mrs. John Prevôt.

SHE.

With madeira, port, and sherry,
When you make what you call merry,
And sit in sober sadness, are you sober? No!
With that horrid Major Rock,
It is always twelve o’clock,
Ere you tumble up to coffee, Mr. John Prevôt.

BOTH.

Our vicar, Doctor Jervis,
When he read the marriage service,
United us for better or for worse—Heigh-ho!
Since the worst may turn to better,
And we cannot break our fetter,
Let us say no more about it, Mr. (Mrs.) John Prevôt.

THE DEVIL'S OWN SHOP.

Air—"Paddy whack."

FROM great Londonderry to London so merry,
 My own natty self in a wagon did ride,
 In London so frisky folks ride in a whiskey,
 In Connaught we carried the whisky inside.
 I jumped from the wagon and saw a green dragon,
 I spied a blue boar when I turned to the south,
 At the Swan with two throttles, I tippled two bottles,
 And bothered the beef at the Bull and the Mouth.
 Ah, Looney, my honey, look after your money,
 'Tis all botheration from bottom to top,
 Sing didderoo daisy, my jewel, be aisy,
 This Lunnun agra' is the devil's own shop.

The great city wax-work is nothing but tax-work,
 A plan to bamboozle me out of my pelf,
 Says I, Mrs. Salmon, come, none of your gammon,
 Your figures are no more alive than myself.
 I axed an old Quaker the way to Long Acre;
 With thee and with thou he so bother'd my brain,
 After fifty long sallies through lanes and blind alleys,
 I found myself walking in Rosemary-lane.
 Ah, Looney, my honey, look after your money,
 'Tis all botheration from bottom to top,
 Sing didderoo daisy, my jewel be aisy,
 This Lunnun agra' is the devil's own shop.

At night, O how silly along Piccadilly
 I wandered, when up came a beautiful dame—
 Hurroo, says the lady, how do you do, Paddy?
 Says I, pretty well, ma'am, I hope you're the same.
 But a great hulking fellow who held her umbrella,
 He gave me a terrible thump on the nob,
 She ran away squalling, I watch, watch! was calling,
 The devil a watch was there left in my fob.
 Ah, Looney, my honey, take care of your money,
 'Tis all botheration from bottom to top,
 Sing didderoo daisy, my jewel be aisy,
 This Lunnun agra' is the devil's own shop.

BRIGHTON.

Air—"The Tight Little Island."

Sir Dogberry Dory,
(Pray list to my story,)
Sold fish all alive, fit to bite one,
His wife, huge and tubby,
Tormented her hubby
To dip in the ocean at Brighton ;
"O what a fine town is Brighton,
We all want sea-bathing at Brighton ;
I vow now, Sir Doggy,
Your head is quite foggy,
You *must* take a journey to Brighton."

The knight he looked glum,
And he mutter'd out "hum,"
To her, ay or no, it was quite one ;
So she and Miss Dolly,
So funny, so jolly,
Set off with old Dory for Brighton.
"La, Pa, what a sweet place is Brighton !
I must get a husband at Brighton ;
My Pretty poke bonnet
Will breed a love sonnet,
And I shall get married at Brighton."

Then to the library,
On donkies, so airy,
They trotted, their purses to lighten,
Each pull'd out a crown,
And wrote her name down,
Then gazed at the loungers at Brighton.
"What ! Deputy Treacle at Brighton !
Miss Fubby, too ! how you delight one !
Lord, who could have thought
Uncle Tom to have caught
So far from Whitechapel as Brighton !"

Old Dory, I ween,
Mounts a bathing-machine,

The waves the poor fishmonger frighten,
 So ridicule scorning,
 He pulled down the awning,
 And roared for assistance at Brighton.
 "Hollo! this machine's not a tight one,
 Drive out of the water to Brighton,
 You dog, I don't wish
 To be food for the fish,
 Tho' I'm a fishmonger at Brighton."

At night, one and all,
 They repaired to the ball;
 Miss wanted a partner, a light one;
 She chose, among many,
 A lad from Kilkenny,
 One Mr. Macshannon at Brighton.
 Next day they played billiards at Brighton,
 The very first hazard the knight won,
 But soon all the cannons
 Were Mr. Macshannon's,
 He choused poor old Dory at Brighton.

Macshannon, sad story,
 Made love to Miss Dory,
 The cord of affection to tighten,
 With hearts like Mount Etna,
 They galloped to Gretna,
 Nor thought of poor daddy at Brighton.
 The knight swore an oath, not a slight one,
 He laid all the blame on poor Brighton,
 "My duck, what's the matter?"
 "Zounds, madam, don't chatter.
 Our Dolly has hopped off from Brighton."

Ma'am sighed for the races,
 But he took two places
 For London—the coach was a night one;
 Then, lord! what a prig,
 He put on his Welsh wig,
 And bowing thus took leave of Brighton,
 "I've lost all my money at Brighton,
 I'm caricatured too by Dighton,
 Well, well, I won't swear,
 But next year, I declare,
 I'll be hang'd if you catch me at Brighton."

SONG.—TRIP TO PARIS.

WHEN a man travels, he must not look queer
 If he get a few rubs he does not get here;
 And if he to Paris from Calais will stray,
 I will tell him the things he will meet on his way,
 Dover heights—men like mites—skiffery, cliffery, Shaks-
 peare—
 Can't touch prog—sick as a dog—packetem, racketem—makes
 pier—

Calais clerks—custom house sharks—searchery, lurchery, fee!
 fee!

On the pavé—cabriolet—clattery—pattery, oui! oui!
 Abbeville—off goes a wheel—hammery—dammary, tut! tut!
 Montreuil, look like a fool—latery, gatory—shut! shut!
 Laughing, quaffing, snoozing, boozing, cantering, bantering,
 gad about, mad about.
 When a man travels, &c.

Ding doug—post-boy's thong—smackery crackery—gar! gar!
 Soups, ragouts—messes and stews—hashery, trashery, psha!
 Beggar's woes—*donnez quelque chose*—howlery, growlery,
 sous! sous!

Crawl like a calf—post and a half—sluggery, tuggery, phoo!
 phoo!

St. Denis, custom-house fee—lacery, tracery, non, non!
 Silver tip—finger on lip—feeing 'em, feeing 'em, bon! bon!
 Laughing, quaffing, &c.
 When a man travels, &c.

II.

When a man travels and gets, by good luck,
 To Paris, he stares like a pig that is stuck,
 And if he's in want of a *Guide de Paris*,
 He'd better be quiet and listen to me:
 Montagnes Russes, down like a sluice—whizzery, dizzery,
 see saw!
 Catacombs, ghosts and gnomes—bonery, gronery, fee! faw!
Mille Colonnes—queen on her throne—flattery chatter, *charmant!*
 t's to pay! Beauvilliers—suttle 'em, guttle 'em—gour-
 mand!

St. Cloud—fête de St. Loe, Bowerem—showerem—jet d'eau—
Bastille—water-work wheel—Elephant—elephant—wet O!

Laughing, quaffing, &c., &c.

When a man travels, &c.

Sol fa—tanta-ra-ra! Shriekery, squeakery—strum—strum!

Louis d'or—couldn't get more! Packery, backery—glum—
glum!

Call for bill—worse than a pill, largery—chargery—O! O!

Diligence—lessens expense; Wagonem draggingem—slow—
slow!

Quillacq—glad to get back, floodery—scuddery—sick—sick!

Now we steer, right for the pier, overem, Doverem,—quick,
quick!

Laughing—quaffing—snoozing—boozing—cantering—banter-
ing—gadabout—madabout.

When a man travels, he must not look queer

If he get a few rubs he doesn't get here;

And if he from Calais to Paris would stray,

I've told him the things he will meet on his way.

*Sung by Mr. Mathews at the Anniversary Dinner of the
Covent Garden Theatrical Fund, 1829.*

I RISE, Mr. Chairman, my hand on my glass,

To move that our annual money bill pass,

So firmly we draw unanimity's cords,

We sha'n't throw it out, tho' it sprang from the Lords.

Dame Poverty's called by some out-of-date quiz

—A nurse to the virtues"—I dare say she is;

But as to the virtues that crown our *dram. pers.*,

They're apt to prove sick when put out to nurse.

We've a motto—my Latin I fear's gone to grass—

In English it means that the stage is a glass,

To make it a mirror it still wants, good lack!

A little quicksilver to rub on its back.

Shall dingy Othello contemplate in wo

His milk-score, and cry (Cash I owe) Cassio!

No, never shall Britons a hero down trample,

That set married men such a glorious example.

Shall Luke, who now eats such a supper in "Riches,"
Devour from a caldron cheap soup with the witches?
Ophelia can't dine upon daisies and rue,
And "Poor Tom's a-cold," is no joke if it's true.

Recollect, tho' from merit I'd not be detracting,
That as yet we've discovered no railroad for acting;
Recollect that no steam can aid our manufacture,
And no gas can dilate a man into an actor.

I'll not any longer part toper and glass,
I move, Mr. Chairman, our money bill pass,
And when *you* report progress, that chair to retain,
I'll hope you'll ask leave, sir, to sit there again.

COUNTRY COMMISSIONS.

Cousin Charles, please to send down to-morrow,
At eight, by the Scarborough mail,
Claudine, or the Victim of Sorrow,
Don Juan, two mops, and a pail.
As soon as you enter Hyde Park, it
Must suit you to call in Gough Square;
And when you're in Leadenhall Market,
Buy a rattle at Bart'lmey Fair.

Do give the enclosed to George Colburn,
The tinman—he's sure to be found—
He lives in Southampton Street, Holburn,
Or else near the Islington Pound.
Papa wants a hamper of claret
Like that which he smuggled from Tours,
Aunt Agatha wants a poll parrot—
Perhaps you could let her have yours.

We are dying for Lord Byron's sonnet,
Tell Jones I have sent him a pig,
Mamma wants a new sarcenet bonnet,
The size of the head of our gig.
Could you match the enclosed bit of ribbon,—
Do buy Tom an ounce of rape-seed;
When you send the third volume of Gibbon,
Do send Jack a velocipede.

Some shears that old Dobbin will well dock,
 A mouse-trap, a gold-headed cane,
 A bottle of Steers' opodeldoc,
 Three ounces of allicumpane,
 Gold wire from Duke's Head, Little Britain,
 A purple tin kaleidoscope,
 A tea-tray, a tortoiseshell kitten,
 Rob Roy, and a long bit of soap.

Six ounces of Bohea from Twining's,
 A peg-top, a Parmesan cheese,
 Some rose-coloured sarcenet for linings,
 A stew-pan, and Stevenson's glees;
 A song ending "Hey noni noni,"
 A chair with a cover of chintz,
 A mummy dug up by Belzoni,
 A skein of white worsted from Flint's.

ANSWER.

Can I pocket St. Paul's like an apple,
 Take Waterloo bridge in my teeth,
 Mount astride the Green Dragon Whitechapel,
 And fight all the butchers beneath?
 Can I eat Bank directors by dozens,
 Put the national debt in a dish?
 If I cannot, my dear country cousins,
 I cannot do half what you wish!

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

I sing of a queer set of fellows,
 Who met once a week just to prate;
 Some gabble, and some blow the bellows,
 While others, good lack!
 Go clickety clack,
 With tongue and with wrist,
 Knee, body, and fist,
 And bellow, harangue, and debate;
 Till the President, finding it past ten o'clock,
 Cries, Silence, and gives with his hammer a knock,
 Look 'ye here,
 Mr. Chair,

All confusion, I declare—
 All confusion, all confusion.
 All confusion, I declare ;
 Order, order, order, order,
 Chair, chair, chair !

The question for *this* night's discussion—
 Pray, gentlemen, be better bred—
 Is this—if a Turk or a Russian
 Were born, if you please,
 At the Antipodes,
 Where moon there is none,
 And never a sun,
 But darkness is light,
 And morning is night,
 He would walk on his heels or his head ?
 Will nobody get up ? The evening grows late,
 Hark off ! A new Member begins the debate.
 Look'ye here,
 Mr. Chair, &c., &c.

He sat down—then up rose a second,
 The second he called up another :
 Four, five, six, and seven were reckoned,
 Eight, nine, ten, eleven,
 To eloquence given ;
 All chatter and prate,
 Harangue and debate,
 Till argument sticks ;
 And boxes and kicks
 Bring noise, and confusion, and bother,
 Till the President, finding it past ten o'clock,
 Cries, Silence, and gives with his hammer a knock.
 Look ye here,
 Mr. Chair, &c., &c.

SONNETS IN IMITATION OF SHAKSPEARE.

ABSENCE and Presence, born of elder Night,
 O'er common mortals hold a common sway ;
 Absence alights when Presence takes her flight,
 Presence presides when Absence is away.

O'er life's dull ocean, borne with steady sails,
 Alike, as brother oft resembles brother;
 By cold indifference pois'd in equal scales,
 The one may well pass current for the other.
 But (thee once known) what heart can ever know,
 Oblivion, weed that rots on Lethé's wharf?
 Presence dispensing joy, and Absence wo,
 This soars a giant, and that droops a dwarf.
 Oh! disproportioned size of joy and grief,
 Absence, how endless long, and Presence brief!

Thou'lt still survive, when I to time shall bow,
 When my leaves scatter'd lie, thy rose will bloom;
 Thou'lt walk the earth, alert as thou art now,
 When I am mould'ring in the silent tomb;
 My face, my form, traced by the graver's tool,
 Thou holdest: hold them then; and, with a sigh,
 When shadowing night shall o'er the welkin rule,
 Bethink thee, musing, of the days gone by.
 Be not *too* happy, or my jealous sprite
 Shall deem thy laughter light, thy spirits folly;
 But, gazing on my portraiture, unite
 Serene content with sober melancholy,
 And cast, in thy belov'd sobriety,
 Some thoughts on him whose *all* thoughts dwelt on thee.

TO MRS. LANE FOX.

(With a portfolio of engravings.)

THE book that in your lap reclines,
 Where many a leaf like zephyr wavers,
 Within its ample cope combines
 The skill of Britain's best engravers.
 Fishers are there, with humid nets,
 Dutch boors, intent upon their duties,
 And Egypt's mendicant brunettes,
 And mild Circassia's snowy beauties.

Mountains whereon the clouds recline,
 Whence many a Tuscan bravo sallies,
 Castles that crown the rapid Rhine,
 Cots that repose in Arno's valleys,

Divers, o'er Indian surge reclined,
 (Where Phœbus glares with added brightness,)
 Delving for pearls, ordained to find
 On arms like yours a rival whiteness.

Great painters here their colours strike,
 Rubens no longer feeds on roses,
 In sober brown reclines Vandyke,
 Untinted Titian here reposes.
 Artists whose palettes to the sight
 Presents a gay prismatic olio,
 Array'd in modest black and white,
 Repose within this huge portfolio.

Yet not even Bartolozzi's school
 Can give all copies equal spirit;
 Vainly the graver plies his tool,
 'To give to all impartial merit.
 Each, with what skill soever plann'd.
 Grows than its predecessor fainter,
 Fall faded from his wearied hand,
 And disappoints the peevish painter.

Would he a gainful trade pursue,
 His now superfluous labour saving,
 Let the glad artist learn of you,
 Lady, the art of true engraving.
 You, who at every glance awake
 A portrait teeming with expression,
 And cleverly contrive to make,
 Where'er you go—a *Proof Impression* !

LINES ADDRESSED TO MRS. VERSCHOYLE.

To shun the syren's joint attacks,
 Ulysses, ocean ranger,
 Sealed his companion's ears with wax,
 And thus escaped the danger.
 Bound to the mast, himself, in vain,
 He strove to hear their chorus :
 The deafened sailors ploughed the main,
 And rounded Cape Pelorus.

Had you sung there, to win the prize
 By all the Muses cherish'd,
 (Had he not bound his sailors' eyes,)
 The subtle Greek had perish'd.
 That face—that voice—all tastes must suit,
 O'er all enchantment flinging:
 You fascinate our eyes when mute,
 And charm our ears when singing.

ALPHABETICAL RIVERS.

Addressed to Mrs. —

WHAT various tributary tides
 Flow downward to the C!
 How many a bark in Eria glides
 Along the silent D!

The Y in Cambria, as it flows,
 What furious eddies vex!
 In Devon, emblem of repose,
 How tranquil winds the X!

The Tiber, hymn'd, when Rhome was free,
 By many a bard of old,
 Hides many a marble F E G
 Beneath its sands of gold.

The Thames, upon a rainy day,
 Seem'd muddy to the view,
 As late I stood upon the K,
 And fish'd in it at Q.

Nor tides alone—but you who go
 To James's and to Howell's,
 Possess the qualities that flow
 From consonants and vowels.

Though beauty (got I know not whence)
 In you applauding men see,
 'Tis to good humour and good sense
 U O your X L N C!

DEMOSTHENES.

A NEW SONG,

Sung at the last Anniversary Dinner of the Society of Athenians
at the Globe Tavern, Fleet Street.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to speak,
And, gentlemen, do not prove jeerers,
Though my story to me is all Greek,
And perhaps may prove so to my hearers.
Attention ! I sha'n't keep you long—
Athenians should never be lost in ease—
O list to my wonderful song
Of your mighty grandfather Demosthenes.

At school he was called a 'cute lad,
A dead hand at syntax and grammar,
Yet his spouting was shockingly bad,
He did nothing but stutter and stammer.
'The weakest must go to the wall,
So, quizz'd by the lads and the lasses,
He walked off to blubber and bawl
To the *Polufloisboio Thalasses*.*

Then rose from the sea in a shell
Old Neptune's salt rib Amphitrite,
She row'd him for making a yell,
And cried, in disdain, "Hoity toity !
Dame Thetis might come to her son,
But I'm on another guess station."
Thus tutor'd, our hero begun
To blubber his maiden oration.

"Zounds ! goddess, don't bother and preach,
All trades they must have a beginning ;
Whenever I set up a speech,
All Athens it sets up a-grinning."
"Psha ! blockhead, I'll teach you to squeak !
I'll tune up your basses and trebles.—"
So saying, she greeted our Greek
With a mouthful of sea-weed and pebbles.

* "Sounding main."—*Pope's Homer*.

Returning, he mounted the stage,
 His eloquence took in the nation,
 All Athens applauded the sage,
 And *bravo, encore*, came in fashion.
 Whenever he spouted, I wot,
 These pebbles came in for the glory ;
 They shook in his jaws like the shot
 In the patent shot manufactory.

Ye sons of the senate, who still
 For freedom are spouting and raving.
 I'd advise you to bring in a bill
 Your own throats with granite for paving.
 O that is the way, I declare,
 To be with Demosthenes even,
 Your pebbles to spit at the chair,
 And that I call stoning *St. Stephen*.

We modern Athenians are able
 To open to glory a new door,
 For while we have wine on the table,
 We won't say *Ariston men kudor*.*
 We needn't for pebble-stones probe,
 Like Dad in old ocean's dark cavern ;
 Our eloquence sounds through the *Globe*—
 To be sure I don't mean the Globe Tavern.

 ODE TO SENTIMENT.

DAUGHTER of dulness ! canting dame !
 Thou night-mare on the breast of joy,
 Whose drowsy morals, still the same,
 The stupid soothe, the gay annoy :
 Soft cradled in thy sluggish arms,
 E'en footpads prate of guilt's alarms,
 And pig-tail'd sailors, sadly queer,
 Affect the melting mood, and drop the pitying tear.

When first to tickle Britain's nose
 Hugh Kelly raised his leaden quill,
 Thy poppies lent the wish'd repose,
 And bade the gaping town be still.

* " Water claims the highest praise."—*West's Pindar*.

Poor *Comedy* ! thine opiate lore
With patience many a day she bore,
Till Goldsmith all thy hopes dismay'd,
And drove thee from the stage by Tony Lumpkin's aid.

Scared by thy lanthorn visage, flee
Thalia's offspring light and merry.
Loud laughter, wit, and repartee,
And leave us moralising Cherry.
They fly, and carry in their line,
Grimaldi, Goose, and Columbine,
To Sadler's Wells by Dibdin taken,
With him they vow to dwell, nor find themselves forsaken.

Soliloquy, with clamorous tongue,
That brings the lord knows what to view,
And Affectation, pert and young,
Swearing to love—the lord knows who.
Still round the midnight caldron caper,
Warm Charity with Newland's paper,
And baby Bounty not unwilling
To give to mother dear her new *King George's* shilling.

O gently o'er the modern stage,
Fair preacher, raise thy deafening din !
Not with the metaphoric rage
That guides the sword of Harlequin,
(As erst thou didst the town amuse,)
With tender bailiff, generous Jews,
Socratic soldiers, praying sailors,
Chaste harlots, letter'd clowns, and duel-fighting tailors.

Forbear thy handkerchief of brine,
Some gleams of merriment admit ;
Be tears in moderation thine,
To water, not to drown, the pit.
But if, with streaming eye askew,
Thou still wilt blubber five acts through,
Have pity on a son of rhyme,
Usurp the play—'tis your's—but spare the pantomime.

THE IRISH SMUGGLERS.

FROM Brighton two Paddies walk'd under the cliff,
For pebbles and shells to explore ;
When lo ! a small barrel was dropp'd from a skiff,
Which floated at length to the shore.

Says Dermot to Pat, " We the owner will bilk,
To-night we'll be merry and frisky,
I know it as well as my own mother's milk,
Dear joy ! 'tis a barrel of whisky."

Says Pat, " I'll soon broach it, O fortunate lot !
(Now Pat, you must know, was a joker,)
I'll go to Tom Murphy, who lives in the cot,
And borrow his kitchen hot poker.

'Twas said, and 'twas done—so the barrel was bored,
(No Bacchanals ever felt prouder,)
When Paddy found out a small error on board,
The whisky, alas ! was gunpowder !

With sudden explosion he flew o'er the ocean,
And high in air sported a leg ;
Yet instinct prevails when philosophy fails,
So he kept a tight hold of the keg.

But Dermot bawl'd out, with a terrible shout,
" I'm not to be chous'd, Master Wiseman ;
If you do not come down, I'll run into the town,
And, by Jasus, I'll tell the exciseman."

MARY, OR THE SERPENTINE SKATERS.

DEAR Mary, you've gazed on the Serpentine skaters,
As agile as swallows, as fleet on the wing ;
Far-darting Apollos, in cloth boots and gaiters,
Whose tills and whose tournaments make the ice ring.
Of all the blithe gala, come, paint me a picture—
From Vulcan's red glances your countenance screen ;
And ere you deposit your furry constrictor,
Report what you've heard, and depict what you've seen.

Say, who were the leaders, the gaze of the million,
 Who spanned the wide channel on iron-bound keel?
 What light unapproachables swam a cotillion,
 (In this Anno Domini dubbed a quadrille?)
 What Jersey, looked after by mothers and daughters,
 What Bligh, what Argyll, the *élite* of the set,
 Like Pope's young Camilla, fled over the waters?
 What Caulfield sprang round in a brisk pirouette?

You smile, gentle Mary, yet those were the leaders,
 In days long departed, as Mercury fleet;
 But 'Time with his scythe, has pronounced them seceders,
 And clipped the light pinions that feathered their feet.
 I, "once an Arcadian," like them too could measure
 The stream, and alert o'er the Serpentine dart;
 But warned by the gout, I abjure the chill pleasure,
 And gaze on the game where I once took a part.

A little red robin, high perched on a willow
 That droops o'er the margin your foot lately press'd,
 Has sung in my ear, that the ice-fettered bottom
 Bore one whom you gazed on far more than the rest:
 'Twas handsome John Selby—that screen, blushing Mary,
 Is shifting its place while my theme I pursue;
 Your hand seems resolved its position to vary,
 And raise it a rampart between me and you.

Nay! pardon the hint: 'twas not meant to affright you—
 Those dark downward orbs prithee rise up again;
 Should Love not play truant, and Hymen unite you,
 May peace and prosperity rivet the chain!
 Those spirits of youth may misfortune ne'er sober—
 May blooming felicity call you her own;
 Till Time shall have mellow'd your May to October,
 And Mary and John shall be Darby and Joan.

PHŒBE, OR MY GRANDMOTHER WEST.

AH, Phœbe! how sily, love's arrow to barb,
 You've stolen down stairs in your grandmamma's garb!
 Your ringlet-graced head, and your stomacher flat,
 The cut of your cloak, and the bend of your hat,
 Your flounce and your ferbelow, all have confess'd
 Your masquerade likeness to your Grandmamma West.

That necklace of coral I've seen all afloat
 (Ere wreck'd by old Time) on your grandmamma's throat ;
 Her hands, alike gazed on by dandies and boors,
 I've seen her fold often as now you fold yours ;
 While crowds have around her at Ranelagh press'd,
 Allur'd by the beauty of Grandmamma West.

Hold, Phœbe ! thou archest of heart-stealing girls,
 Thy hat, and thy cloak, and thy lace, and thy pearls,
 May not be cast off, till thy painter shall trace
 The raiment antique, and thy juvenile face,
 With thy ringlets and flounces that once gave a zest
 To the now waning charms of your Grandmamma West.

'Tis done ; now begone, and remember that Time,
 By steps slow and sure, is corroding your prime.
 An era shall come, spite of hopes and of fears,
 When Phœbe shall be what she now appears,
 A tidy old woman arrayed in her best,
 A counterfeit true of her Grandmamma West.

TIME AND LOVE.

AN artist painted Time and Love ;
 Time with two pinions spread above,
 And Love without a feather ;
 Sir Harry patronized the plan,
 And soon Sir Hal and Lady Ann
 In wedlock came together.

Copies of each the dame bespoke :
 The artist, ere he drew a stroke,
 Reversed his old opinions,
 And straightway to the fair one brings
 Time in his turn devoid of wings,
 And Cupid with two pinions.

"What blunder's this ?" the lady cries.
 "No blunder, Madam," he replies,
 "I hope I'm not so stupid.
 Each has his pinions in his day,
 Time, before marriage, flies away,
 And, after marriage, Cupid."

SURNAMEs.

MEN once were surnamed from their shape or estate,
 (You all may from history worm it;) .
 There was Lewis the Bulky, and Henry the Great,
 John Lackland, and Peter the Hermit.
 But now, when the door-plates of Mist'ers and Dames
 Are read, each so constantly varies
 From the owner's trade, figure, and calling, Surnames
 Seem given by the rule of contraries.

Mr. Box, though provoked, never doubles his fist,
 Mr. Burns in his grate has no fuel,
 Mr. Playfair won't catch me at hazard or whist,
 Mr. Coward was wing'd in a duel.
 Mr. Wise is a dunce, Mr. King is a Whig,
 Mr. Coffin's uncommonly sprightly,
 And huge Mr. Little broke down in a gig,
 While driving fat Mrs. Golightly.

Mrs. Drinkwater's apt to indulge in a dram,
 Mrs. Angel's an absolute fury,
 And meek Mr. Lyon let fierce Mr. Lamb
 Tweak his nose in the lobby of Drury.
 At Bath, where the feeble go more than the stout,
 (A conduct well worthy of Nero,)
 Over poor Mr. Lightfoot, confined with the gout,
 Mr. Heaviside danced a bolero.

Miss Joy, wretched maid, when she chose Mr. Love,
 Found nothing but sorrow await her;
 She now holds in wedlock, as true as a dove,
 That fondest of mates, Mr. Hayter.
 Mr. Oldcastle dwells in a modern-built hut,
 Miss Sage is of madcaps the archest;
 Of all the queer bachelors Cupid e'er cut,
 Old Mr. Younghusband's the starchest.

Mr. Child; in a passion, knock'd down Mr. Rock,
 Mr. Stone like an aspen-leaf shivers;
 Miss Poole used to dance, but she stands like a stock,
 Ever since she became Mrs. Rivers.

Mr. Swift hobbles onward, no mortal knows how,
 He moves as though cords had entwined him,
 Mr. Metcalfe ran off, upon meeting a cow,
 With pale Mr. Turnbull behind him.

Mr. Barker's as mute as a fish in the sea,
 Mr. Miles never moves on a journey,
 Mr. Gotobed sits up till half after three,
 Mr. Makepiece was bred an attorney.
 Mr. Gardener can't tell a flower from a root,
 Mr. Wilde with timidity draws back,
 Mr. Ryder performs all his journeys on foot,
 Mr. Foote all his journeys on horseback.

Mr. Penny, whose father was rolling in wealth,
 Kick'd down all the fortune his dad won,
 Large Mr. Le Fevre's the picture of health,
 Mr. Goodenough is but a bad one.
 Mr. Cruickshank stept into three thousand a year,
 By showing his leg to an heiress;—
 Now I hope you'll acknowledge I've made it quite clear
 Surnames ever go by contraries.

THE WATERING PLACES.

"AWAKE, arise," bold Neptune cries,
 "It scandalous and base is
 To lag behind, when half mankind
 Frequent my watering Places."—
 "'Tis passing odd, blue-bearded god,
 That men should thus turn otters;
 With every due respect for you,
 I never liked your Waters.

"If 'twere my lot to build a cot,
 Or dome of Chinese pattern,
 It should not verge upon thy surge,
 Joint Devisee of Saturn.
 The very trees that own thy breeze,
 Seem by the favour undone;
 With inland bend, like me, they send
 A longing look tow'rd London.

" The man who stops in sea-side shops,
 Like Donaldson's or Lucombe's,
 In hopes to find food for the mind,
 Soon finds he's not at Hookham's.
 The libraries that edge thy seas,
 Are fit for boys in short hose;
 Their gew-gaw shelves bear tops for twelves,
 And paper kites in quartos.

" Sandgate may do for those who woo
 The leaden god of slumber.
 O'er Bognor Rock the sea-gulls flock;
 I'll not increase their number.
 Who loves to hide should go to Ryde,
 Full equi-dismal Cowes is:
 And poor Eastbourne appears to mourn
 Her runaway 'Sea Houses.'

" To Broadstairs they may post away,
 Who think it famous cheer is
 With gun and shot o'er fields to trot,
 Monopolized by Ceres.
 Southend's too nigh, and they who hie
 'To Scarborough too far get:
 Worthing's all tides, and all Cheapside's
 Mud carted into Margate.

" Tow'rd Rottingdean who walks the Steyne,
 A bold and jutting work sees,
 Which aims, by spars, and chains, and bars,
 'To fetter thee like Xerxes.
 But, son of Ops, the pile that stops
 Thy waters in their gushing,
 May quit its post on Brighton coast,
 And walk away to Flushing.

" See yonder yacht, with paddling trot,
 And rolling Lichfield Sam's gait,
 Unload, at eight, its motley freight,
 'To skim thy surf at Ramsgate.
 I once swam near her Lighthouse Pier,
 'Than moist Leander madder,
 ut, warn'd by Time, no more I climb
 For Angela Jacob's ladder.

“ At Hastings, if her frisky cliff
 Would be more staid and sober,
 The gods I'd think to pass, dear Frank,
 With thee a blithe October.
 But from her brink new rocks may sink,
 The next time blows the wind bad :
 And I below her chalky brow
 Be sepulchred like Sindbad.

“ Thus, billowy god, my muse has trod
 Thy forelands, creeks, and mountains,
 And, could I boot as light a foot,
 I'd seek thy briny fountains.
 But gout requires more inland shires,
 The limb, that last night felt numb,
 Instinctive clings to mineral springs—
 Adieu, I'm off for Chelt'nham !”

POOR ROBIN'S PROPHECY.

When girls prefer old lovers,
 When merchants scoff at gain,
 When Thurtell's skull discovers
 What pass'd in Thurtell's brain :
 When farms contain no growlers,
 No pig-tail Wapping-wall,
 Then spread your lark-nets, fowlers,
 For sure the sky will fall.

When Boston men love banter,
 When loan-contractors sleep,
 When Chancery pleadings canter,
 And common-law ones creep :
 When toppers swear that claret's
 The vilest drink of all ;
 Then, housemaids, quit your garrets,
 For sure the sky will fall.

When Southey leagues with Wooller,
 When dandies show no shape,
 When fiddlers' heads are fuller
 Than that whereon they scrape :

When doers turn to talkers,
 And quakers love a ball ;
 Then hurry home, street-walkers,
 For sure the sky will fall.

When lads from Cork or Newry
 Won't broach a whisky flask,
 When comedy at Drury
 Again shall lift her mask ;
 When peerless Kitty utters
 Her airs in tuneless squall,
 Then, cats, desert your gutters,
 For sure the sky will fall.

When worth dreads no detractor,
 Wit thrives at Amsterdam,
 And manager and actor
 Lie down like kid and lamb ;
 When bard with bard embraces,
 And critics cease to maul,
 Then, travellers, mend your paces,
 For sure the sky will fall.

When men, who leave off business
 With butter-cups to play,
 Find in their heads no dizziness,
 Nor long for " melting day :"
 When cits their pert Mount-pleasants
 Deprive of poplars tall ;
 Then, poachers, prowl for pheasants,
 For sure the sky will fall.

A PAIR OF EAR-RINGS.

HAPPY the man in music nursed !
 Toward Phœbus' Temple beckoned ;
 He lets some fair one sing the first,
 And takes at sight the second.

Not mine that tuneful height to gain,
 And yet, to stem disaster,
 Methink I might, by care and pain,
 Some few duettos master.

Kate, fair preceptress, taught me well,
By dint of toil, to bellow
A second to Mozart's "Crudel,"
And Mayer's "Vecchierello."

Push'd on by her assiduous aid,
In strains not much like Banti,
Through "Con un Aria" next I strayed,
Composed by Fioravanti.

Thus taught my tuneful part to bear,
To Kate, assiduous girl,
In courtesy I sent a pair
Of ear-rings, deck'd with pearl.

My Mercury to Kate's abode
On agile pinions flew,
And fleetly by the self-same road
Brought back this billet-doux :—

"A boon like this, dear Sir, appears
The best you can bestow :
'Tis fit you decorate my ears—
You've *bored* them long ago."

PROVERBS.

My good Aunt Bridget, spite of age,
Versed in Valerian, Dock, and Sage,
Well knew the virtues of herbs ;
But Proverbs gain'd her chief applause,
"Child," she exclaim'd, "respect old saws,
And pin your faith on Proverbs."

Thus taught, I dubb'd my lot secure ;
And playing long-rope, "slow and sure,"
Conceived my movement clever.
When lo ! an urchin by my side
Push'd me head foremost in, and cried
"Keep Moving," "Now or Never."

At Melton next I join'd the hunt,
 Of bogs and bushes bore the brunt,
 Nor once my counter held in ;
 But when I saw a yawning steep,
 I thought of "Look before you leap,"
 And curb'd my eager geldin.

While doubtful thus I rein'd my roan,
 Willing to save a fractured bone,
 Yet fearful to exposure ;
 A sportsman thus my spirit stirr'd—
 "Delays are dangerous,"—I spur'd
 My steed, and leap'd th' enclosure.

I ogled Jane, who heard me say,
 That "Rome was not built in a day,"
 When lo ! Sir Fleet O'Grady
 Put this, my saw, to sea again,
 And proved, by running off with Jane,
 "Faint heart ne'er won fair Lady."

Aware "New Brooms sweep clean," I took
 An untaught tyro for a cook,
 (The tale I tell a fact is ;)
 She spoilt my soup : but, when I chid,
 She thus once more my work undid
 "Perfection comes from Practice."

Thus, out of every adage hit,
 And, finding that ancestral wit
 As changeful as the clime is :
 From Proverbs, turning on my heel,
 I now cull Wisdom from my seal,
 Whose motto's "Ne quid nimis."

THE BIRTH OF PODAGRA.

"FAIR daughter, it puzzles me much,"
 Quoth Jove to Idalia's Queen,
 "Why you married a god on a crutch,
 Who never looks fit to be seen."

With Mara, and with Bacchus, and with
 Apollo to woo you in songs,
 Oh ! how could you marry a smith
 Who furnishes pokers and tongs !”

“ Dread sire,” said the Queen of the Loves,
 “ While Vulcan is beating hot shoes
 All day, I can harness my doves,
 And call on what people I choose :
 You made him a smith from his birth,
 His forge on Mount *Ætna* he plies :
 Let him mind his shop upon earth,
 And me manage mine in the skies.

The Thunderer nodded assent,
 Ere long, with his vine-circled rod,
 On no honest embassy bent,
 Came Bacchus, the ivy-crown'd god.
 He drove the dame out in his car ;
 Anacreon call'd up the Nine,
 And thrumm'd his eternal guitar
 In praise of the myrtle and vine.

With Vulcan employ'd all the day,
 The lovers felt doubly secure ;
 We know, when Grimalkin's away,
 The mice are not over-demure.
 Thus flitted unclouded the scene,
 Till Dian nine circuits had run :
 When, lo ! the parturient Queen
 Of Paphos gave birth to a son.

In flannels Jove swaddled the imp,
 As broad as his mother's blue zone,
 And prudently gave him a limp,
 To pass for lame *Mulciber's* own.
 The Bacchus and Venus-born child
 Grew, otherwise, healthy and stout.
 Hippocrates nursed him, and styled
 The big-footed libertine—Gout !

THE YEAR TWENTY-SIX.

'Tis gone with its toys and its troubles,
 Its essays on cotton and corn,
 Its laughing-stock company bubbles,
 Its Cherry-ripe—(muscle by Horn).
 'Tis gone, with its Catholic Question,
 Its Shields, its O'Connells, and Brice :
 Time, finding it light of digestion,
 Has swallow'd the Year Twenty-six.

I've penn'd a few private mementoes
 Of schemes that I meant to effect,
 Which, sure as I hobble on ten toes,
 I vow'd I'd no longer neglect.
 "My wits," I exclaim'd, "are receding.
 'Tis time I their energies fix ;
 I'll write the town something worth reading,
 To finish the year Twenty-six."

My pamphlet, to tell Mr. Canning
 The Czar has an eye on the Turk :
 My treatise, to show Mr. Manning
 The way to make currency work :
 My essay, to prove to the nations
 (As sure as wax-candles have wicks)
 Greek Bonds are not Greek obligations—
 Were planned in the Year Twenty-six.

I sketch'd out a novel, where laughter
 Should scare evangelio Tremaine,
 Shake Brambletye House of its rafter,
 And level Tor Hill with the plain.
 Those volumes, as grave as my grandam,
 I swore with my book to transfix ;
 'Twas call'd the New Roderick Random,
 And meant for the Year Twenty-six.

My play had—I'd have the town know it—
 A part for Miss Elinor Tree ;
 At Drury I meant to bestow it
 On Price, the gigantic lessee.

Resolved the fourth act to diminish,
 ('Tis there, I suspect, the plot sticks,)
 I solemnly swore that I'd finish
 The fifth, in the Year Twenty-six.

But somehow I thought the Haymarket
 Was better for hearing by half,
 To people who live near the Park it
 Affords the best home for a laugh,
 "There Liston," I mutter'd, "has taught 'em
 Mirth's balm in their bitters to mix :
 I'll write such a part in the autumn
 For him—in the Year Twenty-six !"

I meant to complete my Italian—
 ('Tis done in a twelvemonth with ease,)
 Nor longer, as mute as Pygmalion,
 Hang over the ivory keys.
 I meant to learn music, much faster
 Than fellows at Eton learn tricks :
 Vercellini might teach me to master
 The notes, in the Year Twenty-six.

'Tis past, with its corn and its cotton,
 Its shareholders broken and bit ;
 And where is my pamphlet ? forgotten.
 And where is my treaties ? unwrit.
 My essay, my play, and my novel,
 Like so many Tumble-down Dicks,
 All, all in inanity grovel—
 Alas ! for the Year Twenty-six !

My Haymarket farce is a bubble,
 My *Bocca Romana* moves stiff,
 I've spared Vercellini all trouble,
 I don't even know the bass cliff.
 My brain has (supine anti-breeder)
 Neglected to hatch into chicks
 Her offspring—Pray how, gentle reader,
 Thrive yours for the Year Twenty-six ?

George Whitfield, whom nobody mentions
 Now Irving has got into fame,
 Has paved with abortive intentions
 A place too caloric to name.

I fear, if his masonry's real,
 That mine have Macadamized Styx:
 So empty, cloud-clapp'd, and ideal,
 My plans for the Year Twenty-six!

Past Year! if, to quash all evasions,
 Thou'ldst have me with granite repair,
 On good terra firma foundations,
 My castles now nodding in air:
 Bid Time from my brow steal his traces
 (As Bardolph abstracted the Pix),
 Run back on his road a few paces,
 And make me—like thee—Twenty-six.

THE AUCTIONEER'S ODE TO MERCURY.

Air—A German Bravura.

HERMES, god of cheats and chatter,
 Wave thy smooth caduceus here—
 Now that, pulpit-propp'd, I flatter;
 Hermes, god of cheats and chatter,
 Smile, O smile on Mr. Smatter,
 Aid a humble Auctioneer!
 Wave thy smooth caduceus here,
 O'er a humble Auctioneer!
 With its virtues tip my hammer,
 Model my Grammar,
 Nor let me stammer.

First, here's Sackbut's Song of Slaughter;
 Verse and prose, the Laureat Otter,
 Flats along, diluting song
 In milk and water.
 Next (who'll buy?) here's Love in Little,
 Smooth as glass and eke as brittle;
 Here are posies, lilies, roses,
 Cupid's slumbers—out in numbers,
 Pouting, fretting, fly-not-yet-ing,
 Rosa's lip, and Rosa's sigh—
 For one pound six—who'll buy, who'll buy?
 Here's Doctor Aikin, Sims on Baking,
 Booth in Cato quoting Plato,

Jacob Tonson, Doctor Johnson,
 Russia binding, touch and try—
 Nothing bid—who'll buy, who'll buy ?
 Here's Mr. Hayley, Doctor Paley,
 Arthur Murphy, Tommy Durfey,
 Mrs. Trimmer's little Primer,
 Buckram binding, touch and try—
 Nothing bid—who'll buy, who'll buy ?
 Here's Colley Cibber, Bruce the fibber,
 Plays of Cherry, ditto Merry,
 Tickel, Mickle.

When I bow and when I wriggle,
 With a simper and a giggle,
 Ears regaling, bidders nailing,
 Ladies utter in a flutter—
 "Mister Smatter, how you chatter,
 Dear, how clever ! well, I never
 Heard so eloquent a man !"

Tropes purloining, graces coining,
 Glibly I, without repentance,
 Clip each sentence.
 But, to give each lot its station,
 Ere from the pulpit I dismount,
 God of Recapitulation,
 Hermes, aid me while I count—
 Aikin, Baking, Cato, Plato,
 Cibber, fibber—Cherry, Merry,
 Hayley, Paley—Secker, Decker,
 Tickel, Mickle—Tonson, Johnson,
 Literary Caliban.

Forty-seven ! Oh, far too thrifty—
 Thank'ee, Ma'am—two places—fifty !
 Must it go ? oh, surely no !
 Only eye me, then deny me.
 When I bow and when I wriggle,
 With a simper and a giggle,
 Ears regaling, bidders nailing,
 Ladies utter in a flutter—
 "Mister Smatter, how you chatter—
 Dear, how clever ! well I never
 Heard so eloquent a man !"

Tongue of Mentor, lungs of Stentor,
 Hermes, thou hast made mine own.

Cox and Robins own, with sobbings,
 I'm the winner ; Dyke and Skinner
 Never caught so glib a tone.
 Dull and misty, Squibb and Christie,
 When I mount look pale and wan—
 Going, going, going—gone !

THE TABLET OF TRUTH.

Sit down, Mr. Clipstone, and take
 These hints, while my feelings are fresh ;
 My uncle, Sir Lionel Lake,
 Has journey'd the way of all flesh.
 His heirs would in marble imprint
 His merits aloft o'er his pew—
 Allow me the outline to hint—
 To finish, of course, rests with you.

And first, with a visage of wo,
 Carve two little cherubs of love,
 Lamenting to lose one below
 They never will look on above.
 And next, in smooth porphyry mould,
 (You cannot well cut them too small)
 Two lilliput goblets, to hold
 The tears that his widow lets fall.

Where charity seeks a supply
 He leaves not his equal behind :
 I'm told there is not a dry eye
 In the School for the Indigent Blind.
 Then chisel (not sunk in repose,
 But in *alto relief*, to endure,)
 An orderly line of round O's
 For the money he gave to the poor.

I league not in rhyme with the band
 Who elevate sound over sense :
 Where Vanity bellows "expand,"
 Humility whispers "condense."
 Then mark, with your mallet and blade,
 To paint the defunct to the life,
 Four stars for his conduct in trade,
 And a blank for his love of his wife.

'Tis done—to complete a design,
 In brevity rivalling Greece,
 Imprint me a black dotted line
 For the friends who lament his decease.
 Thus letter'd with merited praise,
 Ere long shall our travel-fraught youth
 Turn back from the false Père-la-Chaise
 To gaze on my Tablet of Truth.

JACK JONES, THE RECRUIT.—A HINT FROM OVID.

JACK JONES was a toper : they say that somehow
 He'd a foot always ready to kick up a row ;
 And, when half-seas over, a quarrel he pick'd
 To keep up the row he had previously kick'd.

He spent all, then borrow'd at twenty per cent ;
 His mistress fought shy when his money was spent,
 So he went for a soldier ; he could not do less,
 And scorn'd his fair Fanny for hugging brown Bess.

“ Halt—wheel into line !” and “ Attention—Eyes right !”
 Put Bacchus, and Venus, and Momus to flight :
 But who can depict half the sorrows he felt
 When he dyed his mustachois and pipe-clayed his belt ?

When Sergeant Rattan, at Aurora's red peep,
 Awaken'd his tyros by bawling, “ Two deep !”
 Jack Jones would retort, with a half-suppress'd sigh,
 “ Ay, too deep by half for such ninnies as I.”

Quoth Jones, “ 'Twas delightful the bushes to beat,
 With a gun in my hand, and a dog at my feet ;
 But the game at the Horse-Guards is different, good lack !
 'Tis a gun in my hand, and a cat at my back.”

To Bacchus, his saint, our dejected Recruit,
 One morn, about drill-time, thus proffer'd his suit—
 “ O make me a sparrow, a wasp, or an ape—
 All's one, so I get at the juice of the grape.”

The god was propitious—he instantly found
 His ten toes distend and take root in the ground ;
 His back was a stem, and his belly was bark,
 And his hair in green leaves overshadow'd the park.

Grapes clustering hung o'er his grenadier cap,
 His blood became juice, and his marrow was sap :
 Till nothing was left of the muscles and bones
 That form'd the identical toper, Jack Jones.

Transform'd to a vine, he is still seen on guard,
 At his former emporium in Great Scotland Yard ;
 And still, though a vine, like his fellow-recruits,
 He is train'd, after listing, has ten-drills, and shoots.

THE TWO COMMENTATORS.

CÆSAR and Blackstone, mighty men,
 One drew the sword, and one the pen.
 One clear'd law's antiquated den,
 One took to war's vagaries.
 Both well contriv'd themselves to entrench ;
 One Junius fought, and one the French ;
 That sought the Throne, this found the Bench,
 And both wrote Commentaries.

These militant and civil elves,
 One Easter Monday, found themselves,
 Well bound, on Doctor Lettsom's shelves ;
 They form'd his favourite study.
 There would he read of statutes, cars,
 Of special pleading, Picts, and scars,
 Justinian Pandects, and the wars
 Of Julius fierce and bloody.

"Read these," he cried with buoyant speech
 To Doctor Cooke, a fellow-leech,
 "There mount, and either volume reach :
 How each in style concise is !"
 Cooke, by his Quaker friend thus press'd,
 Made the selection he thought best,
 And read what Blackstone writes on Test-
 -Amentary devises.

“Doctors, experienced or raw,
Should learn” (read Cooke) “enough of law
To enable them a will to draw
Whene’er a crisis summons;
When call’d to deal with pains and aches,
’Tis needful for their patients’ sakes :
Oft, by their aid, that writing makes
Its way to Doctors’ Commons.”

“Is that in Blackstone ?”—“Ay,” quoth Cooke.
“Enough,” said Lettsom: “close the book ;
The public will derisive look,
If this gets wind, will soon eye us.”
“True,” cried the other, with a wink ;
“If such this heresy, I think
The Commentating Man of Ink
Deserved to die by *Junius*.”

“There bind him in his clasp of lead,
Re-lodge the slanderer overhead,
And reach down Cæsar in his stead,”
(Quoth he who wore the beaver :
“His classic pan, undipp’d in gall,
Will ne’er on the profession fall ;
Read, and thou’lt prove, like me, of all
He writes a stanch believer.”

“They who” (read Cooke) “the fight pursue
On foot, but trivial mischief do ;
Within their line of march but few
Are found t’ engage their forces ;
But when on spoils of war they thrive,
And, arm’d in point, in chariots strive,
Death darkly follows where they drive,
And carnage marks their courses.”

“Hold there !” with something like an oath
The Quaker cried—“however loth
T’ abjure my books, henceforth on both
I launch my prohibitions ;
Cæsar, in mischief match’d by none,
Writes not of Britons dead and gone ;
’Tis a decided libel on
The College of Physicians.

“Caesar, avaunt!”—Quoth Cooke, “Amen!
 The Roman strives with subtle pen
 Our trade to countermine, and then
 From practice to uproot us :
 If, foe to physio, thus he feel
 Regardless of the public weal,
 The Commentating Man of steel
 Deserved to die by *Brutus*.”

UGLY OBJECTS.

WHEN Nature form'd Sir Samuel Laak,
 She shaped him, in an idle prank,
 Below her usual level.
 His eyes appear like kidney beans ;
 The ladies call him *plain*, which means
 As ugly as the devil.

And yet Sir Samuel “has a taste :”
 His lawn is by Acacias graced,
 (I sing no idle fable,)
 And a young row of sightly elms,
 From parlour-window gaze o'erwhelms
 His coach-house and his stable.

Meantime his whiskers, in a peak,
 Slope down, invading either cheek ;
 Of late their quantum's double :
 While twin mustachios o'er his lip
 Impending, make the sufferer sip
 His soup in fear and trouble.

Quoth Richard, “What a curly head !
 Is he a *Lancer* ?”—“No,” quoth Ned :
 “The man must suit the place :
 Taste and improvement are his trade—
 Now that the stable's hid in shade,
 He's planting out his *Face*.”

OWEN OF LANARK.

WELCOME, welcome, mighty stranger,
To our transatlantic shore :
Anchor'd safe from seas and danger,
All your fears and doubts are o'er.
Sable Jews and flaxen Quakers
Imitate no more the shark ;
Wealth lies planted out in acres—
Welcome, Owen of Lanark !

Parallelograms of virtue,
Haunts from human frailty free,
Squares that vice can ne'er do hurt to,
Circles of New Harmony :
Schemes that blossom while we view 'em,
Swamp and Prairie changed to park :
Meum melting into tuum—
Wondrous Owen of Lanark !

All New York, in mind and body,
Feels thy influence, and adores ;
Bittern, Sangaree, and Toddy
Fly her fifteen hundred stores.
Big Ohio now looks bigger,
Freedom fans the kindred spark :
Boss no longer scowls on Nigger—
Welcome, Owen of Lanark !

Lazarus lies down with Dives,
Rich and poor no more are seen ;
Baltimore our common hive is ;
Busy bees, and thou their Queen.
Uncle Ben lays down his rifle,
While his Nephew—prone to bark—
Thanks his stars for “ that 'ere trifle,”
Mighty Owen of Lanark !

Failing schemers, retrograders,
Lawyers fattening on strife,
Grim backwoodsmen, bankrupt traders,
Squatters brandishing the knife :

Bury Banks their Cents up summing
 Many a Master, many a Clerk,
 Drop their dollars at thy coming,
 Mighty Owen of Lanark !

Free to titled Sirs and Madams,
 Prove Law's blunders to redress,
 Washington nor Quincy Adams
 Ever saw thy like, I guess.
 Let John Bull's polluted pages
 Dub thee staring, dub thee stark :
 Seize of succeeding Ages,
 Welcome, Owen of Lanark !

Vast, I calculate, thy plan is,
 Born to soar where others creep ;
 Lofty as the Alleghanies,
 As the Mississippi deep.
 As the German Brothers mingle,
 Prone to sing " hark follow hark,"
 All our States, through dell and dingle,
 Hail thee, Owen of Lanark !

" I've an item," Boss and Peasant
 Feel quite mighty where you stray ;
 Competence is omnipresent,
 Poverty " slick right away."
 See our bipeds, " like all nature,"
 Climbing up thy friendly ark,
 Dub thee Sovereign Legislator,
 Welcome, Owen of Lanark !

THE TRITON OF THE MINNOWS.

" Why don't you strike out something new ?"
 Cried fair Euphemia, heavenly blue
 Of eye as well as stocking !
 " If shilly-shally long you stand,
 You'll feel Time's enervating hand
 Your second cradle rocking."

" Ah, madam ! cease your bard to blame ;
I view the pedestal of Fame,
 But at its base I falter :
On every step, terrific, stand
A troop of Poets, pen in hand,
 To scare me from her altar.

" I first essay'd to write in prose,
Plot, humour, character disclose,
 And ransack heaths and hovel :
But, when I sat me down to write,
I sigh'd to find that I had quite
 O'erlook'd the Scottish Novels."

" Well," cried Euphemia, with a smile,
" Miss Austin's gone : assume her style ;
 Turn playmate of Apollo—
But, hold ! how heedless the remark !
Miss Austin's gone—but Mansfield Park
 And Emma scorn to follow."

A bolder flight I'd fain essay,
The manners of the East portray,
 That field is rich and spacious :
Greece, Turkey, Egypt—was a scope !
There too I'm foil'd—why will not Hepe
 Un-write his Anastasius !

Rogers, in calm and even sense,
Byron, in ecstasy intense,
 Make my dim flame burn denser :
Shall I in Fashion's corps enlist,
A light gay epigrammatist ?
 No !—there I'm marr'd by Spenser.

Thus " cribb'd and cabin'd—" poor indeed !"
canter'd on my winged steed
 Towards scenes of toil and tillage :
But there, alas ! my weary back,
Hit on another beaten track,
 Encountering Crabbe's Villager.

Two pathways still to me belong,
 Come, poignant Satire ! amorous Song !
 Beware, ye state empirics !—
 Anticipated ! hideous bore !
 I quite forgot Hibernian Moore,
 His Fudges and his Lyrics.

Great Jove ! compassionate my lot !
 On Campbell, Byron, Moore, and Scott,
 Point thy celestial cannon :
 Sew Crabbe and Rogers in a sack,
 Tie Hope and Spenser back to back,
 And souse them in the Shannon.

So shall I with majestic tread,
 My doughty predecessors dead,
 Up Pindus stretch my sinews :
 And leave all lesser bards behind,
 " The one-ey'd monarch of the blind,"
 " The Triton of the Minnows."

AN UNINSURABLE RISK.

A BOOKSELLER open'd a shop on the coast,
 (I'd rather not mention the spot,)
 Where gentlemen lounged o'er the Herald and Post,
 And ladies read Byron and Scott.

Much personal Memoir, too, shone on the shelves,
 Which boasted a whimsical olio :
 Decorum sang small, in octavos and twelves,
 And scandal in quarto and folio.

The bookseller, prudently aiming to set
 Th' ignipotent god at defiance,
 To open a policy vainly essay'd
 At the Albion, the Hope, and Alliance.

" My friend, your abortive attempt prithee stop,'
 Quoth Jekyll, intent on a joke,
 " How can you expect to insure, while your shop
 Is rolling out volumes of smoke ?"

THE HAUNCH OF VENISON.

AT Number One dwelt Captain Drew,
George Benson dwelt at Number Two,
(The street we'll not now mention :)
The latter stunn'd the King's Bench bar,
The former, being lamed in war,
Sang small upon a pension.

Tom Blewit knew them both : than he
None deeper in the mystery
Of culinary knowledge;
From turtle soup to Stilton cheese,
Apt student, taking his degrees
In Mrs. Rundell's college.

Benson to dine invited Tom ;
Proud of an invitation from
A host who "spread so nicely,
Tom answer'd, ere the ink was dry,
"Extremely happy—come on Fri-
-Day next, at six precisely."

Blewit, with expectation fraught,
Drove up at six, each savoury thought
Ideal turbot rich in ;
But, ere he reach'd the winning-post,
He saw a haunch of ven'son roast
Down in the next-door kitchen.

"Hey ! zounds ! what's this ? a haunch at Drew's ?
I must drop in ; I can't refuse ;
To pass were downright treason :
To cut Ned Benson's not quite staunch ;
But the provocative—a haunch !
Zounds ! it's the first this season.

"Ven'son, thou'rt mine ! I'll talk no more."
Then, rapping thrice at Benson's door,

"John, I'm in such a hurry ;
Do tell your master that my aunt
Is paralytic, quite aslant,
I must be off for Surrey."

Now Tom at next door makes a din :
"Is Captain Drew at home?"—"Walk in."
"Drew, how d'ye do?"—"What! Blewit!"
"Yes, I—you've ask'd me, many a day,
To drop in, in a quiet way,
So now I'm come to do it."

"I'm very glad you have," said Drew,
"I've nothing but an Irish stew"—
Quoth Tom, (aside,) "No matter ;
'Twon't do—my stomach's up to that,—
'Twill lie by, till the lucid fat
Comes quiv'ring on the platter."

"You see your dinner, Tom," Drew cried.
"No, but I don't though," Tom replied ;
"I smok'd below."—"What?"—"Ven'son—
A haunch."—"Oh! true, it is not mine ;
My neighbour has some friends to dine."
"Your neighbour! who?"—"George Benson."

"His chimney smoked ; the scene to change,
I let him have my kitchen range,
While his was newly polish'd ;
The ven'son you observed below,
Went home just half an hour ago ;
I guess it's now demolish'd."

"Tom, why that look of doubtful dread ?
Come, help yourself to salt and bread,
Don't sit with hands and knees up :
But dine, for once, off Irish stew,
And read the 'Dog and Shadow' through,
When next you open *Æsop*."

ODE TO MAHOMET, THE BRIGHTON SHAMPOOER.

Nunc opus est succis : per quos, renovata senectus
In floream redeat, primosque recolligat annos.

Ovia.

O thou dark sage, whose vapour-bath
Makes muscular as his of Gath,
Limbs erst relax'd and limber ;
Whose herbs, like those of Jason's mate,
The wither'd leg of seventy-eight
Convert to stout *knee* timber :

Sprung, doubtless, from Abdallah's son,
Thy miracles thy sire's outrun,
Thy cures his deaths outnumber ;
His coffin soars 'twixt heav'n and earth;
But thou, within that narrow birth,
Immortal, ne'er shalt slumber.

Go bid that turban'd Mussulman
Give up his Mosch, his Ramadan,
And choke his well of Zemzem ;
Thy bath, whose magic steam can fling
On winter's cheek the rose of spring,
To Lethe's gulf condemns 'em.

While thus, beneath thy flannel shades,
Fat dowagers and wrinkled maids
Rebloom in adolescence,
I marvel not that friends tell friends,
And Brighton every day extends
Its circuses and crescents.

From either cliff, the east, the west,
The startled sea-gull quits her nest,
The spade her haunts unearthing ;
For Speculation plants his hod
On every foot of freehold sod
From Rottingdean to Worthing.

Wash'd by thy Æsculapian stream,
 Dark sage, the fair, "propell'd by steam,"
 Renew the joys of kissing,
 In cheeks, or lank or over-ripe,
 Where Time has, in relentless type,
 Placarded up "Youth missing."

To woo thee on thy western cliff,
 What pilgrims throng, in gig, in skiff,
 Fly, donkey-cart, and pillion;
 While Turkish dome and minaret,
 In compliment to Mahomet,
 O'ertop the king's Pavilion.

Thy fame let worthless wags invade,
 Let punsters underrate thy trade,
 For me, I'd perish sooner:
 Him who thy opening scene to damn,
 Derived *shampoo* from *phoo!* and *sham?*
 I dub a base lampooner.

Propell'd by steam to shake from squeak,
 Mara, in Lent, shall twice a week
 Again in song be glorious;
 While Kelly, laughing Time to scorn,
 Once more shall chant, "O thou wert born,"
 And Incledon, "Rude Boreas."

Godwin avaunt! thy tale thrice told,
 Of endless youth and countless gold,
 Unbought "*repōstum manet.*"
 St Leon's secret here we view,
 Without the toil of wading through
 Three heavy tomes to gain it.

Yet O, while thus thy waves reveal
 Past virtues in the dancer's heel,
 And brace the singer's weazon;
 Tell, sable wizard, tell the cause
 Why *limp* poor I from yonder vase,
 Whence others *jump* like Æson:

The cause is plain : though slips of yew
With vervain mingle, sage meets rue,
And myrrh with wolfsbane tosses ;
Still shrieks, unquell'd, the water-wraith—
That mustard-seed ingredient, faith,
Is wanting to the process.

Dip then within thy bubbling wave,
Sage Mahomet, the votive stave.
Thy poet now rehearses :
The steam, whose virtues won't befriend
'The sceptic bard, perhaps may mend
The lameness of his verses !

END OF VOL. I.

MEMOIRS, LETTERS,
AND
POETIC MISCELLANIES,
IN
PROSE AND VERSE,
OF THE LATE
JAMES SMITH, ESQ.

ONE OF THE AUTHORS OF
"THE REJECTED ADDRESSES."

EDITED BY HIS BROTHER,
HORACE SMITH, ESQ.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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## MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES.

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### GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. I.

January, 1821.

My shade, O Hermes! shall punctually obey thy decree. It shall transmit to thee, from London, a monthly narrative of whatever takes place worthy of notice in that forest of chimneys. To whom, indeed, could such communication be half so properly addressed? As patron of travellers, thou wilt listen with complacency to the memoranda of invalid gentlemen from Florence, Brussels, or Paris: as god of thieves and pickpockets, thou wilt wink at my appropriating to myself the good things of the ancients, and the bad ones of the moderns—the gold of Parnassus, and the tinsel of Paternoster-row: and, as conductor of the dead into the infernal regions, thou canst not reject my critical analysis of new plays. Born on Mount Cylene in Arcadia, thou wilt be brisk as the bees of Hymettus, when I convey to thee an Ode on the Serpentine River, or a Sonnet to Primrose-hill, from the pen of a disciple of the new school of poetry. Neither will he, who deemed it no degradation of his divine dignity to steal the oxen of Admetus, the quiver of Apollo, the trident of Neptune, and the girdle of Venus, visit my burglarious intrusions with an indictment in the court of

Rhadamanthus, if my shade should, now and then, steal into the boudoir of a countess, the garret of a poet, the green-room of a theatre, or the sanctum sanctorum of a patriotic parish meeting.

Yet why, O son of Maia, confine my torrestrial year's rule to the narrow boundaries of London Wall? Why reject with indignation my petition to revisit Paris? Thy answer, "Paris is a greater volcano than Vesuvius," must have been delivered in irony. To one "condemned to fast in fires" below, what could it matter whether that hot-bed of anarchy, the Palais Royal, be, or be not, converted into a crater of real lava? Or, grant it so to be, is *London*, at this present writing, perfectly free from volcanic phenomena? Are her artisans all quiet and industrious? her mayors content, as heretofore, with dutiful dulness; and her common council-men as loyally leaden as in the days of the friend of my friend Voltaire, when

"All from St. Paul's to Aldgate ate and slept"?

But hold! I prove too much. In my zeal to show that London is as combustible as Paris, I may induce thee to prohibit my visit to either capital.

It is now upward of sixty years since the Abbé Raynal resigned to me, in the polished capital of France, the Herculean task of acquainting the sovereigns of Germany with the failure of new plays, the squabbles of the Academy, the freaks of actresses, the revolt of dancers, and the revolutionary movement of royal concubines.\* During thirty-five years I toiled at that laborious oar, till the storms of the revolution drove me into Germany. With thee, O Mercury! I have sojourned fourteen years. At first, how glad were we to associate together! with what good-nature didst thou listen whilst I bantered defunct Parisians! Nivelle de la Chaussée, thou mayest remember, sent a challenge, even in the Elysian fields, to Hugh Kelly, the humblest

\* See *Memoirs and Correspondence of Baron de Grimm with the Duke of Saxe-Gotha*, from 1753 to 1790, 4 vols. 8vo.

of English dramatists, because I hailed the latter father of weeping comedy. The Abbé Prevost, for the same cause, squabbled with the voluminous Richardson, merely because he had translated him badly. I pass over Rousseau's ebullition to the shade of David Hume; the man was always mad, dead or alive; but I cannot help reminding thee of his compliment to Mozart: "I admire, sir, your music in *Il Don Giovanni* very much; some passages nearly equal *Le Devin du Village*."

In process of years, however, O Hermes! thou and I have waxed less harmonious. Fellow voyagers, a long calm has made us heartily sick of each other's society. Thou hast told all thy good things; I have told all mine: and now, like an industrious bee, I fly upward to the realms of day, to store thy infernal hive with a fresh assortment of honey.

Let me commence my lucubrations with a paper which I shall call

### *The Bachelor's Thermometer.*

Autobiography is rarely to be depended upon. Rousseau's vanity consisted in painting himself too ugly; Richard Cumberland, Mrs. Robinson, and Mrs. Bellamy, have painted themselves much too handsome; Gibbon's features are not unlike, but the attitude is too stately. No man, according to Samuel Johnson, sits down to depreciate himself, even in writing a letter; how, then, can we expect any man to gibbet himself in immortal type? The "*Bachelor's Thermometer*" was evidently never intended to see the light. It may, therefore, be viewed as probably the most *sincere* self-memoir that ever was penned:—

Ætatis 30. Looked back through a vista of ten years. Remembered that, at twenty, I looked upon a man of thirty as a middle-aged man; wondered at my error, and protracted the middle age to forty. Said to myself, "Forty is the age of wisdom." Reflected generally upon past life; wished myself twenty again; and exclaimed, "If I were but twenty, what a scholar I would be by thirty! but it's too late now." Looked in

the glass ; still youthful, but getting rather fat. Young says, "A fool at forty is a fool indeed : " forty, therefore, must be the age of wisdom.

31. Read in the Morning Chronicle, that a watchmaker in Paris, aged thirty-one, had shot himself for love. More fool the watchmaker ! Agreed that nobody fell in love after twenty. Quoted Sterne, "The expression *fall* in love, evidently shows love to be *beneath* a man." Went to Drury-lane ; saw Miss Crotch in Rosetta, and fell in love with her. Received her ultimatum : none but matrimonians need apply. Was three months making up my mind, (a long time for making up such a little parcel,) when Kitty Crotch eloped with Lord Buskin. Pretended to be very glad. Took three turns up and down library, and looked in glass. Getting rather fat and florid. Met a friend in Gray's Inn, who said I was evidently in *rude* health. Thought the compliment ruder than the health.

32. Passion for dancing rather on the decline. Voted sitting out play and farce one of the impossibilities. Still in stage-box three nights per week. Sympathized with the public in vexation, occasioned by non-attendance the other three : can't please everybody. Began to wonder at the pleasure of kicking one's heels on a chalked floor till four in the morning. Sold bay mare, who reared at three carriages, and shook me out of the saddle. Thought saddle-making rather worse than formerly. Hair growing thin. Bought a bottle of Tricosian fluid. Mem. "a flattering unction."

33. Hair thinner. Serious thoughts of a wig. Met Colonel Buckhorse, who wears one. Devil in a bush. Serious thoughts of letting it alone. Met a fellow Etonian in the Green Park, who told me I *wore* well : wondered what he could mean. Gave up cricket club, on account of the bad air about Paddington : could not run in it without being out of breath.

34. Measured for a new coat. Tailor proposed fresh measure, hinting something about bulk. Old measure too short ; parchment shrinks. Shortened my morning ride to Hampstead and Highgate, and wondered what

people could see at Hendon. Determined not to marry: means expensive, end dubious. Counted eighteen bald heads in the pit at the opera. So much the better; the more the merrier.

35. Tried on an old great coat, and found it an old little one; cloth shrinks as well as parchment. Red face putting on shoes. Bought a shoe-horn. Remember quizzing my uncle George for using one: then young and foolish. Brother Charles's wife lay-in of her eighth child. Served him right for marrying at twenty-one: age of discretion too! Hunting-belts for gentlemen hung up in glovers' windows. Longed to buy one, but two women in shop cheapening mittens. Three gray hairs in left eyebrow.

36. Several gray hairs in whiskers: all owing to carelessness in manufactory of shaving soap. Remember thinking my father an old man at thirty-six. Settled the point! Men grew old sooner in former days. Laid blame upon flapped waistcoats and tie-wigs. Skated on the Serpentine. Gout. Very foolish exercise; only fit for boys. Gave skates to Charles's eldest son.

37. Fell in love again. Rather pleased to find myself not too old for the passion. Emma only nineteen. What then? women require protectors; day settled; devilishly frightened; too late to get off. Luckily jilted. Emma married George Parker one day before me. Again determined never to marry. Turned off old tailor, and took to new one in Bond-street. Some of those fellows make a man look ten years younger. Not that *that* was the reason.

38. Stuck rather more to dinner-parties. Gave up country-dancing. Money-musk certainly more fatiguing than formerly. Fiddlers play it too quick. Quadrilles stealing hither over the Channel. Thought of adding to number of *grave* gentlemen who learn to dance. Dick Dapper dubbed me one of the *overgrows*. Very impertinent, and utterly untrue.

39. Quadrilles rising. Wondered sober mistresses of families would allow their carpets to be beat after that fashion. Dinner-parties increasing. Found my-

self gradually *Tontine-ing* it towards top of table. Dreaded *Ultima Thule* of hostess's elbow. Good places for cutting turkeys; bad for cutting jokes. Wondered why *I* was always desired to walk up. Met two school-fellows at Pimlico; both fat and red-faced. Used to say at school that they were both of my age: what lies boys tell!

40. Look back ten years. Remember, at thirty, thinking forty a middle-aged man. Must have meant fifty. Fifty, certainly, the age of wisdom. Determined to be wise in ten years. Wished to learn music and Italian. Tried *Logier*. 'Twould not do. No defect of capacity, but those things should be learned in childhood.

41. New furnished chambers. Looked in new glass: one chin too much. Looked in other new glass: chin still double. Art of glass-making on the decline. Sold my horse, and wondered people could find any pleasure in being bumped. What were legs made for?

42. Gout again: That disease certainly attacks young people more than formerly. Caught myself at a rubber of whist, and blushed. Tried my hand at original composition, and found a hankering after epigram and satire. Wondered I could ever write love sonnets. Imitated Horace's ode, "*Ne sit ancilla.*" Did not mean anything serious, though Susan certainly civil and attentive.

43. Bought a hunting-belt. Braced myself up till ready to burst. Intestines not to be trifled with: threw it aside. Young men, now-a-days, much too small in the waist. Read in Morning Post an advertisement, "Pills to prevent corpulency:" bought a box. Never the slimmer, though much the sicker.

44. Met Fanny Stapleton, now Mrs. Meadows, at Bullock's Museum. Twenty-five years ago, wanted to marry her. What an escape! Women certainly age much sooner than men. Charles's eldest boy begins to think himself a man. Starched cravat and a cane. What presumption! At his age I was a child.

45. A few wrinkles about the eyes, commonly called

crow's feet. Must have caught cold. Began to talk politics, and shirk the drawing-room. Eulogised Garrick; saw nothing in Kean. Talked of Lord North. Wondered at the licentiousness of the modern press. Why can't people be civil, like Junius and John Wilkes in the good old times?

46. Rather on the decline, but still handsome and interesting. Growing dislike to the company of young men: all of them talk too much or too little. Began to call chambermaids at inns "My dear." Thought the money expended upon Waterloo Bridge might have been better employed. Listened to a howl from Captain Querulous, about family expenses, price of bread and butcher's meat. Did not care a jot if bread was a shilling a roll, and butcher's meat fifty pounds a calf. Hugged myself in "single blessedness," and wished him a good morning.

47. Top of head quite bald. Pleaded Lord Grey in justification. Shook it, on reflecting that I was but three years removed from the "Age of Wisdom." Teeth sound, but not so white as heretofore. Something the matter with the dentifrice. Began to be cautious in chronology. Bad thing to remember too far back. Had serious thoughts of not remembering Miss Farren.

48. Quite settled not to remember Miss Farren. Told Laura Willis that Palmer, who died when I was nineteen, certainly did not *look* forty-eight.

49. Resolved never to marry for anything but money or rank.

50. Age of wisdom. Married my cook.



## GRIMM'S GHOST.

## NO. II.

"Been to the opera lately?" inquired Captain Augustus Thackeray of Mrs. Culpepper, in a tone of such decided recitative, that I would lay an even wager upon its having been modelled upon part of the dialogue of *Il Turco in Italia*.

Luckily, the tremulous lady of the mansion was prevented from answering the question by an exclamation of "Dinner, Jack, directly!" from the hungry lips of her impatient spouse, which gave the captain time to forget that he had propounded it.

The slayer of men now conducted himself according to the laws of Ton, in that case made and provided. He first planted himself with his back to the fire, with either leg sprawled out, like a pair of animated compasses: he next drew from his sabretash a snuff-box, which he deposed to having purchased in the Palais Royal. To drive away the particles of Prince's Mixture which had impertinently planted themselves upon his mustachios, producing a prolonged sneeze, he drew from the same receptacle a pocket-handkerchief of crimson silk: he then fixed his eyes upon a paper trap, which hung from the ceiling, to catch flies, and partly whistled and partly sung "Sul Aria:" he, finally, strolled towards the window, the edge of his sword-sheath, like the rattle of the American reptile, giving due notice of his locomotion; and, after surveying the White Tower of Julius Cæsar and the foliage of Trinity Square in momentary apathy, "my pretty page looked out afar" no longer; but, turning to Mr. Culpepper, said, "Are these trees?" wondering, as well he might, that the natives of these hyperborean regions should have acquired the art of arborization.

"Trees! yes," answered the vender of slops; "what should they be? Oh, but I suppose you don't approve

of railing in and planting that part of Tower Hill." The elegant stranger gently inclined his head, which the interrogator mistook for acquiescence, and thus went on: "You are quite right; I never liked it: I held up my two hands against it in the vestry, but I was outvoted. Ah! sir, in my time—when I was apprentice to old Frank Fitout, the slop-seller in the Tenter-ground—that was all Tower Hill; smack smooth as the palm of your hand: then there was something like going on. I've seen a quack doctor there, upon a stage with a blue and white check curtain; and I've seen a matter of ten boys at a time playing chuck-farthing; ay, and a matter of five sailors abreast, singing ballads and playing fiddles. Ah! that was something like!"

"Something like *what?*?" inquired he of the sabretash, with eyelids dropping until their lashes almost met his mustachios.

Old Culpepper found it difficult to establish a simile that should accord with so many discordant articles, and held his peace. There was something in the above harangue, short as it was, that was rather nauseous than otherwise to every one present. Mrs. Culpepper, who boasted her second cousinship to a sergeant, (whether at law or in the guards I have never been able to ascertain,) disliked the mention of old Frank Fitout and the Tenter-ground; Miss Clara thought the objection to turning the hill into an enclosed square was meant as a *fling* at her rotatory flirtations with young Dixon in that hallowed sanctuary; and George, whose determination to *sink the shop* probably originated in an honest aversion to *shop-lifting*, heard the word "slop-seller" from his father's lips with that heart-sinking sensation which came across Blifil when his uncle Alworthy asked him what he had done with his mother's letter.

Then it was that the boy Jack opened the drawing-room door; and then it was that old Culpepper, concluding that he appeared to announce happiness, bawled out, "Dinner! dinner!" and hunting everybody before him, even as a Hampshire driver urges pigs, drove

the whole herd down a steep staircase into the dining-room.

If nature had ordained man to feed upon horn-handled knives and forks, the motion would have been most reasonable; for of aught else the table exhibited not the shadow. "What the devil's this?" cried the master of the house to the footboy, with a look in which authority and dismay were mingled. "I went up stairs, sir," answered the latter, "to tell you that dinner would be ready presently." "Presently!" cried Culpepper, "psha! what signifies presently? however, since we are here, let us take our places; it will save time. Captain Thackeray, sit up by Madam; Clara, sit you on this side of the captain. I don't ask you, sir, whether you mind the fire; it's your business, you know, to stand it: ha! ha! ha! I beg pardon, but hunger sharpens wit. George, take your seat opposite. Well, now we look not a little like fools. This reminds me of a most extraordinary circumstance, which I would not miss telling for all the world. When I was apprentice to—but here comes dinner!"

The "hold I break we off" of Hamlet was never delivered in so awful a tone. The aforesaid Jack, tottering under a turban, now made his appearance, followed by the housemaid Jane, in a white cap and apron, and a spotted calico gown, bearing the roast beef of the whole of old England, if I might judge from its magnitude. To place these and other articles upon the table, over the shoulders of the sitters, required great delicacy of eye, united to great vigour of muscle. These opposite talents are seldom found united in one person. The consequence was, that in stooping the beef over the shoulder of the shrinking dragoon, a slight dribble of gravy trickled down his right ear and cheek, and finally rested upon that portion of his shirt-collar which, like the blinker of a coach-horse, effectually prevented him from starting at the beauty who had seated herself beside him.

Hot anger mantled in the offended cheek, and for some minutes kept the liquid from coagulation. He,

however, said nothing, and was helped to vermicelli soup. If men with glass windows should not throw stones, by parity of reasoning, men with mustachios should not swallow vermicelli soup. The valiant captain made the attempt, and only in part succeeded; the liquor, indeed, went down his throat, but the ropy ingredients refused so to do, and wound themselves round his mustachios, his nostrils, and his chin-tuft, to the no small glee of the master of the mansion. "Captain," cried the latter, "I don't dabble much in poetry, but I *have* read Monk Lewis's *Alonzo and Imogene*: I could swear I saw the spectre before me:—

"The worms they crept in, and the worms they crept out,  
And sported his *nose* and his *whiskers* about,  
While the spectre addressed Imogene."

"Jack! do run to Seething Lane, and bring back Bill Brim, the barber, with you. If the Captain is not *shaved*, my dinner will be *saved*, ha! ha! ha! I beg pardon, captain, but I have not swallowed a mouthful yet, and hunger sharpens wit."

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

### NO. III.

Captain Augustus Thackeray did not escape from some more of those casualties into which novices in dinner-giving are apt to initiate their guests. Allured by the syren smiles of a dark-green wine-glass at his elbow, betokening hock in front, he ventured to tilt part of the contents of a slim-throated bottle into his glass. The mower down of multitudes had no sooner steered the beverage into his mouth, between the Scylla and Charybdis of his two mustachios, than he suddenly halted in his swallow, ejaculated "Geud Cad!" (his customary

exclamation when anything much amazed him,) and delivered the green decoiver, with its nauseous contents, to the hot and hurried Jane, who happened, at that moment, to be whisking past his chair.

The cod-fish, which Mrs. Culpepper had cruelly mangled in quest of its liver, now disappeared, and was succeeded by that respectable bird whose cackling saved the Roman Capitol. Had Cæsar, at the head of his legions, followed in its rear, Captain Thackeray would never have looked half so aghast. He guessed, with fearful accuracy, how well Mrs. Culpepper could carve; and foreboding certain splashings, of which he willed to be the giver rather than the receiver, he made a military movement, with his left hand, to get possession of the carving-knife and fork. The lady, however, outflanked him. In vain did he entreat that he might be allowed the honour of saving her that trouble: the lady was inexorable. "The captain was very polite; indeed, all the gentlemen of the army were very polite. Captain Buckram, of the Loyal London Volunteers, was politeness itself; and Major Indigo, of the Cripplegate Sharpshooters, was the very pink of politeness. They always asked her to let them carve, and she always refused: it was a thing she never did—and what's more, she never would—let anybody carve but herself. Her uncle, the sergeant, was a capital carver—nobody better; but she never would let him: she once contested the point with him so long, that the gravy-beef looked like a patty-pan of potted. No! it was a thing she never did, and what's more, she never would: she particularly piqued herself upon her carving!"

The conflagrator of female bosoms was not wont to be so rebuffed; but the impenetrable Mrs. Culpepper spiked all his artillery. He, therefore, like a prudent warrior, determined to "bear a wary eye" upon the enemy's motions. The first four slices, from the breast, passed off without much danger, and Mrs. Culpepper's embroidered neighbour began to hope that the limbs would not be called for. Alas! "What are the hopes

of man?"—"Give me a leg," ejaculated Mr. Culpepper. "Now for the tug of war," muttered the captain to himself. "I guess that there will soon be a slop-seller at both ends of the table."

The prophecy was destined to be verified. The common race of men who haunt dinner-tables, dressed in blue or black, are not over indifferent to the consequences of sitting in the purlieu of a goose. What, then, must be the feelings of a wretch habited like Captain Thackeray? If necessity is the mother of invention, danger is the schoolmistress who sets her to work. The dilemma did not admit of delay. Already had our hostess dived into the receptacle of sage and onions; already had she made an incision near the *os femoris*; and already was she grasping the extremity of the bird's leg with a firm, though greasy, left hand; when the router of armies drew hastily from his sabretash the crimson silk pocket handkerchief, of which honourable mention was made in my last epistle, and tying two of its corners behind his neck, caused it to hang like an ægis, to guard his bosom from the random shot of Mrs. Culpepper's knife and fork.

"What is he about?" whispered Culpepper to his son. "If he means to take my hint about shaving, I think he might wait till dinner is over." The deed, however, soon proved the wisdom of its perpetrator. The fair carver, by dint of hacking and twisting, had nearly severed the leg from the body, and, essaying all her remaining strength, now accomplished the feat, but with such an accelerated momentum, that leg, fist, and fork descended, like lightning, into the dish. The sage, onions, and gravy, thus assaulted, fled for their lives, and fastened themselves, in many a stray splatter, upon all who happened to be near them.

"La! mamma, how excessively awkward!" cried Miss Clara, hastily raising the flap of the table-cloth, (for napkins there were none,) to dislodge a trifle of sage and onion from her eyelid. The rapidity of this action upset the contents of a salt-cellar into a dish of

lemon-cream. "Say nothing about it," whispered her prudent father.

Everybody at table was more or less wounded by the explosion, which, but for his crimson silk cuirass, would have been as fatal to the captain as the bursting of the gasometer in Wellington Street, Blackfriars, was to the South London Gas Company.

"It is fortunate that I adopted this expedient," cried the soldier, "otherwise Captain Thackeray would have been Captain Talbot, alias 'the spotted dog.' "Well, sir, you take off your handkerchief *now*," said the half-vexed hostess. "Excuse me, madam," answered he of the crimson breastplate; "both of the enemy's wings, and one of his legs, are still in the field."

"My dear," said Culpepper to his wife, "you began by piquing yourself upon your carving, and you have ended by piquing other people. Come, I call that not so bad. I speak my mind, Captain 'Thack-away.'—" "Thackeray, sir, is my name."—"Well, then, Thackeray, if you like it better: I speak my mind. I'm not ashamed of myself. My name is Culpepper; I'm a slop-seller, and I live in Savage Gardens." "That's pretty plain," muttered the captain.

"It's odd enough," resumed the old gentleman, "that my wife never could lop off the limb like other people. It happens regularly once a year. Her uncle, the serjeant, of whom, you observe, she is always talking, dines with us once a year—on Michaelmas Day: we always have a goose: he always sits where you do (I mean the serjeant, not the goose): my wife always carves: and he always gets splashed: but as he is a serjeant, and always dresses in black, it does not so much matter."

"A serjeant in black!" exclaimed the knight of the ponderous sword. "Geud Gad! Pray, of what regiment?" "The devil's own," roared Culpepper; "he's a serjeant-at-law."

This sally forced a slight laugh from the soldier; but he forthwith recollected himself, and resumed his accustomed air of decorous insipidity. No farther cala-

mity occurred, until, in an evil moment, Captain Thackeray required to be helped to some lemon-cream. The upset salt had by this time insinuated itself into the interior of that compound, so that it presented a smooth, smiling, yet treacherous surface, like the ocean, of which Gay's deploring damsel thus complains :—

“No eyes those rocks discover  
That lurk beneath the deep,  
To wreck the wretched lover,  
And give the maid to weep.”

The captain had hitherto eaten with considerable caution. It would have been a breach of manners, had he lifted to his eye the glass which hung at his bosom ; but, as he was not really short-sighted, a single glance of his naked optics was sufficient to inform him that the veal-olives, the patties, and the curry, were best admired at a distance. But the lemon-cream threw him off his guard. He expressed himself decidedly partial to lemon-cream. “Lemon-cream, madam,” said he, turning to the lady president, “is a standing dish at the United Service : so it is at Count Stuppenough's, the ambassador from Hungary : so it is at Lady Sarah Surfeit's ; I eat it there twice a week. I wonder the Duke of Doublecourse never has it : I frankly told him, last Wednesday, that I would not dine with him again if he had it not. Miss Culpepper, pray help me bountifully, and then I shall not incur the malediction poured by Brummel upon the heads of those who are helped twice.”

Clara cast a conscious look at her father, who winked his left eye, in token of secrecy and compliance. Thus urged, the unhappy girl deposited about one-eighth of the contents of the dish upon the captain's plate, which, thus freighted, was re-delivered by Jane over the wrong shoulder of the *gourmand*. A table-spoon, large enough for the jaws of Grimaldi, lay before him ; with this he tilted a tolerable lump of the lemon-cream into his mouth ; when lo ! in lieu of that soft, melting, and lemon-shaded sweetness, which his fond imagination had anticipated,



all the mines of Poland seemed to descend upon his palate. Regurgitation was impracticable : the false solid had, like a quicksand, become liquid, and he was forced to gulp it down "with what appetite he might." His throat swelled, during the process, like that of the sword-digesting juggler, and it was full three-quarters of a minute before the sacker of cities had regained breath sufficient to ejaculate, "Geud Gad !"

At this eventful moment, Mr. Culpepper's foot-boy rushed into the room with a letter, addressed to his young master. The youth opened it, and exclaimed with delight, "Five tickets for Tom and Jerry ! five tickets for Tom and Jerry !" "What night ?" inquired Clara. "To-morrow," answered George. "It is a rule with me," said the father, "to go anywhere, provided I get in for nothing. Your mother, Clara, and yourself, George, will make four ; and, captain, I hope you'll make the fifth." "With great pleasure," answered the latter, who had just swallowed a whole tumbler of water, "provided there is no lemon cream in the bills." The party was forthwith arranged, and I conclude with re-echoing the wish of Gilpin's bard :—

"May I be there to see."

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

### NO. IV.

The first consul of France, in the year 1804, issued an edict that there should be no more "funerals performed" within the walls of the metropolis. He had caused as many funerals to be performed as most people, in other places, but seemed determined that his "good city of Paris" should be exempt from anything which might clash with the cry of "Vive la bagatelle."

To this interdiction the inhabitants, independently of a diminution of doctors' fees, owe the laying out of that interesting cemetery, *Mount St. Louis*, more commonly called *Père la Chaise*. There, in poetical embalment, repose the remains of marshals, merchants, cooks, milliners, poets, and coffee-house keepers. Their various parts performed above, there they rest in harmony below, undisturbed even by the propinquity of *Madame Raucour*.

It is a trite observation, that the French invent and the English improve. Certainly, of English churchyards in general, it may be said, in the words of the auctioneer, "the whole capable of great improvement." The survivors have at length become aware of this. The citizens of London are at last convinced that a sitting-room and a bed-room, looking into a confined church-yard, in Bush Lane or Aldermanbury, are calculated to cause the proprietor to follow the defunct at a quicker pace than was anticipated. The Lord Mayor (I tell it in confidence) has accordingly ordered that no more funerals shall take place within the bills of mortality. A mount, called *Primrose Hill*, situated between London and the village of Hampstead, and commanding a fine view of the metropolis, has been pitched upon as the receptacle of the future dead. It already possesses a respectable sprinkling of graves.

Before, however, I write a description of its various monuments, the mention of graves reminds me so forcibly of an anecdote of

"Necker's fair daughter, Stael the Epicene,"

that I shall die a second time if I do not relate it. That celebrated lady, a few years ago, visited this huge metropolis. Hardly was she safely deposited at the Golden Cross, Charing Cross, trunks and band-boxes inclusive, when she inquired of the waiter if he could direct her to the tomb of Richardson. The crier of "Coming, sir," was not a little astonished what a lady, on a drizzling November afternoon, could want with a tomb. In a moment he bethought him of Richardson the tavern-keeper in

Covent Garden ; but having, the day before, purchased a sixteenth of a lottery-ticket, he jumped to another conclusion, namely, that Richardson and Goodluck were the parties inquired after. He, therefore, taking it for granted that the first-named of that firm must have paid the debt of nature, directed the authoress of *Corinne* to Mr. Goodluck, in Cornhill, the supposed surviving partner. Away, in a hackney coach, drove our fair traveller to Cornhill ; pushed quickly past a dapper clerk in the front shop, who was tempting two servant maids with a collection of eighths and sixteenths, held up between his fingers like thirteen cards at whist, and, accosting a tall thin man perched in a pulpit, inquired for the tomb of Richardson. "The tomb of Richardson, madam !" said the amazed manager. "Mr. Richardson, I am happy to inform you, never was in better health. He has just set off in Butler's coach for Clapham Rise. Here must be some mistake. What Richardson do you mean ?" "The divine Richardson." "Divine ! Oh ! a clergyman—I really cannot tell. You had better inquire of the bookseller of that name over the way."

Here, upon our heroine's mentioning that the dead man she meant was the immortal author of *Clarissa*, the bookseller was casually enabled to put her upon the proper scent, by informing her that the deceased lay buried in the parish church of St. Clement Danes, in the Strand. Back through Temple Bar incontinently drove the enamoured pilgrim ;—invoked the sexton from his glass of brandy and water ;—aided by a lantern (it was now dark) found the sacred sepulchre—a flat stone, close to the parish pump, green with age, and muddy with sabbath pedestrians ;—and, falling prostrate upon the cold marble, had reason to congratulate herself, when she arose, on not having paid her respects to the divine Richardson in her best apparel.

This calamity, as the coronation herald said to George the Third, cannot happen again. No more huddling of poor folks together, like people in the pit on the late re-opening of Drury Lane theatre. They will, hereafter, have the satisfaction of sleeping in a bed wide

as that of Ware, or that of honour—in which latter, according to Sergeant Kite, “several hundred people may sleep together without feeling each other.”

But I detain you too long from a description of this recent London cemetery. Over its eastern gate is described, in gilt characters,—

“Mount Rhadamanth, or  
The New Père la Chaise.”

On my first entrance, I was agreeably surprised to find so much good taste exhibited in the laying out of the graves. The good old regular jog-trot of “Affliction sore long time I bore;” “An honest man, a husband dear, and a good Christian, slumbers here;” or, “Adieu, dear partner of my life,” rhyming, to a dead certainty, with “wife;” were utterly abolished. A pale-looking man in black, indeed, informed me that the trustees of the establishment had determined to discard not only bad poetry, but fiction, from their monumental inscriptions. “Indeed!” said a man in striped trousers beside me; “then how will they ever get good poetry? fiction is the soul of it.” “Excuse me, sir,” said he in sables; “elegiac poetry should confine itself to facts: ‘De mortuis nil nisi *bonum*’ is an antiquated axiom, which the biographer of Doctor Young very properly expelled, and introduced ‘nil nisi *verum*’ in its place. No man, sir, can be buried here without producing a certificate of his character while in the land of the living; if that have been good, we allow his relations to blow a trumpet over his grave; if bad, they must pen an elegiac satire, or say nothing: and this rule is especially enforced when the epitaph is expressed in the first person singular.

“It is a little too bad, when ‘*etiam mortuus loquitur*,’ to find a sepulchre giving vent to a falsehood.—Now, here, gentlemen,” said our guide, addressing a party of about half a dozen who had by this time entered the cemetery—“here is an instance of what I mentioned. This is the monument of Sir Giles January, citizen and goldsmith. At the mature age of sixty-one, he married

Miss Myrtilia May, aged nineteen. In two years he died of a swan-hopping dinner, caught at the Castle at Richmond. Consequently, at the period of his exit, he was sixty-three, and his partner twenty-one. Now, sirs, in the 'olden time,' this monumental stone would have talked of 'partner dear, slumber here; mutual love, heaven above; heart from heart, forced to part;' and 'all that sort of thing:' to all which averments, gentlemen, the trustees of Mount Rhadamanth entertain only one objection, namely, that not one syllable of them would have been true. Step this way, sir, if you please; you, madam, had better stand upon that flat stone on the right: and now let us see what the gentleman has to say for himself."

I glided, ghost-like, between a young woman in a lilac bonnet, and a swarthy man in green spectacles, and read what follows:—

I left a wife, when dead and gone,  
On earth, one-third the age of me;  
Her years were only twenty-one,  
While mine, alas! were sixty-three.

Oh! thou, who weep'st thy "best of men,"  
Bethink thee, love, who next succeeds;  
Wear black six little months, and then  
Bid Hymen's roses choke thy weeds.

"Who weds the second kills the first"—  
How could old Shakspeare write such stuff?  
My corse will ne'er its cerements burst—  
My will is proved, and that's enough.

"Upon my word," cried a youngster, decorated with an eye-glass and a sky-blue cravat, "that dead man is a mighty sensible fellow. Should anything happen to me, I shall be proud of his better acquaintance—"My will is proved, and that's enough."—Capital. 'Multum in parvo.' Stop! I'll pop it down in my pocket-book: it will make an excellent addition to my sister Morgan's album: quite a hit! she's at this moment in mourning, as black as a crow, for old Marmaduke Morgan,

her indigo-grinding husband, who left her fifteen hundred a year—sole executrix too—what has she to do with sables? Stay! ‘who weds the second kills the first.’ Egad! I don’t remember that in Shakspeare: I’ll take my oath it’s neither in the Honey Moon nor Venice Preserved.”

The agent of the trustees of Mount Rhadamanth now led us up a sloping and rather circuitous path, pleasantly shaded by willow and cypress trees; during our progress through which we caught glimpses of divers grave-stones, bearing the customary English decorations, namely, bald-pated old men with scythes, skulls with cross bones, hour-glasses, and cherub heads with full-blown cheeks. “To confess the truth, gentlemen,” said our guide, “the arts have not hitherto made much progress in England. We could, not, at the outset of the establishment, positively object to these hackneyed ornaments; but they do us little credit: our comfort is, that they stand sentinels over personages whom nature ‘manufactured when she made a Grose’—mere John Wilsons of this parish; and Martha Wadesons of that parish, and George Simpons of t’other hamlet; very respectable people in their line, but not calculated to confer much credit upon the new Père la Chaise.”

At this moment I observed that the young woman in the lilac bonnet had, with two female companions, stepped over three ignoble graves, and was busied in deciphering the inscription upon a very smart monument of yellow and green marble. “Ah! ladies,” ejaculated the man in black, “that is worthy your notice: that is the tomb of Miss Fanny Flight; a celebrated beauty in her day; the green and yellow marble denotes the melancholy cause of her demise.”

“No doubt,” interrupted the youth with the blue cravat,

“‘And with a green and yellow melancholy  
She sat like Patience on a monument,’

as Ben Jonson says. Egad! I thought I should whip in something at last.”

The guide looked a reproof at the impertinence of the stripling; and to a question from one of the ladies, as to what caused her death, answered, "A lover, madam." "Oh, sir, a rejection, I suppose." "No, madam, an offer; nothing more, I assure you." "Die of an offer?" "Yes, of an offer; read the epitaph: the lady, after death, confesses her errors with as much readiness as she denied them during her life."

The partner of partners, the belle of the ball,  
 And caring for none, though I smiled upon all.  
 I flirted a season with all that I saw,  
 The parson, the merchant, the limb of the law;  
 The squire and the captain were fish in my net,  
 Which gained me the name of the Village Coquette.  
 Years gather'd, and robb'd me of swain after swain:  
 Time snaps, link by link, the most obdurate chain.  
 The parson adored a rich widow at Kew,  
 The merchant ran off with the niece of a Jew,  
 The lawyer eloped, being rather in debt,  
 And the squire "stole away" from the Village Coquette;  
 The captain, false pirate! for life took in tow  
 A wharfinger's daughter at Stratford-le-Bow;  
 When lo! pert and priggish, all congees and shrugs,  
 Approach'd to adore me—a dealer in drugs!  
 I shudder'd—I sicken'd—I paid nature's debt,  
 And died, sad and single, a Village Coquette.

"Hah! lively and lyrical enough," cried the quoter of Ben Jonson; "she seems to have died like the swan, with a song in her beak." "What!" exclaimed a pale-looking girl, who walked arm-in-arm with her of the lilac bonnet, "died because she was courted by the apothecary? Impossible." "It is true, I assure you," said the man in green spectacles. "I knew Miss Flight perfectly well: I once asked her to dance myself, but my green spectacles were an insurmountable obstacle: though I believe my evening coat had a black velvet collar. I rather suspect that helped to alienate her: at all events she told me she was engaged:—there her conduct was indefensible:—but, as 'touching the apothecary,' I think she was quite right. To be courted by an apothecary is a very serious matter; it is quite

enough to kill any decent young woman. In every village within seven miles of the metropolis, there is a race of birds, a race of beasts, and one bat." "One bat? Lard! what has that to do with it?" said young Eye-glass. "I will explain," continued the narrator: "The esquire, the merchant, the justice of the peace, and, in some few cases, the attorney, being the upper folks, I call the birds. The butcher, the blacksmith, the exciseman, the tailor, and, the gingerbread-baker, being the lower folks, I denominate the beasts. The apothecary flutters between both: he feels the pulse now of the merchant's lady, and now of the gingerbread-baker's wife: is a little above par in the back parlour of the butcher, and decidedly below par in the drawing-room of the esquire—I therefore call him the bat. Miss Flight never could have married him: that was out of the question: so, her ammunition being all exhausted, and the birds not having been brought down, she did what Bonaparte should have done at Waterloo—she quitted Love's service in disgust, and 'boldly ventured on the world unknown.'"

At this moment our sibyl in black looked down a by-path; and, observing two women in deep mourning, made a motion to the party to stand aside, and let the mourners pass. This hint was decorously complied with. The sisters—such they evidently were—seemed to be between thirty and forty years of age, and, with faces hid in deep black veils, hastily passed the party, and walked onwards towards the gate of the cemetery. "Ah!" cried the guide, when they were out of hearing, "that is a lamentable case. Those are two maiden sisters. Their means are but small, and of course they lead but solitary lives. They had taken a beautiful little girl under their protection, in whom all their affections were centred. She, poor thing, was taken off last month by a fever. They never pass a day without coming to her grave. I see they have gone through the gate, so we may venture to look at it." The monument was an humble one, and the inscription was as follows:—



Flucted  
 To the memory of  
 Phœbe Lancelotti,  
 who died  
 The 4th of September, 1822,  
 Aged 7 years.

Affliction's daughters saw this flower arise,  
 Beheld it blossom, fann'd by Zephyr's wing,  
 And hoped—for fondly hoped—that summer skies  
 Would guard from blight the progeny of spring.

Affliction's daughters saw this flower decay;  
 By them 'twas raised—by them 'tis planted here,  
 Again to soar above incumbent clay,  
 And bloom eternal in a happier sphere.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. V.

### UNCLE AND NEPHEW.

Every one who is conversant with Richmond and its environs, (and what man, since the Diana steam-vessel first started from Queenhithe to Eel-pie Island, can plead ignorance?), must know that passengers are conveyed across the Thames, from Ham to Twickenham, by a ferry-boat: that there is a foot-path through a field which leads from the river to Ham; and that, to attain that foot-path, it is necessary to cross a stile.

Upon this stile, one fine afternoon in July, sat, astride, Mr. Robert Robertson and his nephew Tom Osborne, awaiting the return of Platt the ferryman, that they might solace themselves with a view of the tombs in Twickenham churchyard. "Tom," said the uncle to the nephew, "I have long wished to give you something." The eyes of the nephew brightened; he mechanically took off his kidskin glove, and protruded his

right hand. "I mean, some little advice." Tom replaced the glove upon his hand, with a look that seemed to say, "The less the better."

"I take," continued Mr. Robert Robertson, "an avuncular interest in all that concerns you, and I cannot but enter my protest against the grotesque garb in which you have enveloped your person. Dress, nephew, was originally intended to guard us against the inclemencies of the weather; but, in your case, I am sorry to say that it deviates into downright ornament. But, lest you should think that I am inclined to too sweeping a censure—*'spargere voces ambiguas'*—(I hope you keep up your Latin)—I will, with your permission, analyse your apparel from head to foot—*'ab ovo usque ad mala.'* The latter quotation is from Horace. To begin, then, with your hat: I am sorry to find it white. Sir Barnaby Rotolph, the Blackwell-hall factor in Catenton street, has a very sage apophthegm upon that head. 'Show me a man with a white hat, and I'll show you a fool.' Now, I should be sorry, nephew, to stultify you without a hearing, (stultify is a legal verb, very much in favour with the late Lord Ellenborough); so, prithee tax that 'bulbous excrescence' (the expression occurs in George Alexander Stephens,) that fills up the hollow of the article that I am criticising, and tell me whether you mean to suffer judgment to go by default, or to plead the general issue with a justification?"

"I plead a justification," said Tom, briskly. "Good," answered the professional Mr. Robertson; "bold, too, but hazardous. In what does your justification consist?" "Your example." "Mine?" "Yes, uncle, yours. My aunt Sally has a picture of you, painted by Hoppner thirty years ago. It exhibits you patting a favourite filly. The scene is a stable: you wear your hat, and that hat has a crown like Mother Shipton's, surrounded by three silk bands, with a rosette to each; just like the smooth-complexioned clergyman's that one so often meets in St. Paul's Churchyard."

"I wonder your aunt Sally keeps that absurd picture," said Mr. Robertson; "but, at all events, the hat is a

black one ; you have, therefore, failed in your justification. And now, nephew, to continue my analysis. The next article to which I am anxious to draw your attention is your cravat. In the good old times, a cambric stock, with a Bristol-stone buckle behind, was universally worn. The full-length engraved portrait of General Washington will show you what I mean. I would not captiously confine you to that. No ; a white muslin cravat, like that which I now wear, may well be worn by you. But Waterloo blue silk appears to me to be altogether inadmissible. An eye of heavenly blue is a pretty adjunct to a pretty woman ; but a cravat of that hue is no necessary appendage to a lordling of the creation. I call you lordling, nephew, because you have barely attained sixteen ; you cannot take up your patent of peerage, to dub yourself a lord of that orbit, until you have attained twenty-one. I suspect you will hardly be bold enough to plead a justification to my second count?"

"Indeed, uncle, but I shall," retorted Mr. Thomas Osborne. "My uncle Charles's dressing-room, you know, is hung round with caricatures." "Well." "Well, uncle, one of them is a portrait of you, drawn by Rawlinson just thirty years ago. It shows you with a thing round your neck more like a poultice than a cravat, with two ends hanging down to your middle, like Mr. Endless, the lawyer, in 'No Song no Supper ;' and underneath it is printed—

"My name's Tippy Bob,  
With a watch in each fob."

"Tippy devil !" petulantly exclaimed Mr. Robert Robertson ; "Rawlinson was a libeller : an etcher of extremes : a painter of pasquinades. Your uncle Charles might be better employed than in gibbeting his relations after that fashion. But to resume the subject of our discourse. We will now, Tom, diverge a little downward. Your coat, Master Osborne, is absolutely bob-tailed. Were you spurred for a set-to at the Royal Cockpit, you would be docked in character. Then its collar—what a preposterous length ! It hangs down

from either shoulder, like Doctor Longsermon's black silk scarf."

"Nay, now, upon your third count. My coat, uncle, I justify most valiantly," retorted the stripling. "I don't stand up for its positive propriety, but I do for its comparative." "Comparative with what?" "With one of yours, uncle, which you wore about thirty years ago. Last night I overheard Mrs. Thislewood tell Captain Paterson that she accompanied you, in the year 1792, to Ranelagh; she said that you made your previous appearance in her drawing-room (I quote her very words) in a salmon-coloured coat, with a light-blue velvet collar and cuffs; that she was sitting behind the screen, which made you think that you were alone in the room; and that under that impression, and, as she states it, dreaming of future glories in the Chelsea Rotundo, you walked up to the looking-glass, and, after surveying yourself for half a minute, exclaimed, 'Well, Bob, if they stand this, they'll stand any thing!'"

"Mrs. Thislewood is a lying old coquette," exclaimed Mr. Robert Robertson; "I make it a rule never to insinuate anything to the prejudice of anybody's character, otherwise I could tell something that happened to her about thirty years ago, which the public would not hold to be barred by the statute of limitations. But to proceed. The mention of coat, nephew, naturally leads the mind to waiscoat—yours, I see, is striped. Mr. Polito might doubt whether you were an ass or a zebra. But we will pass that by; it is wondrous short; and '*de minimis non curat lex*.' Pray keep up your Latin. I never should have prospered if I had lost mine. Proceed we, therefore, to your trousers. They too, I see, are striped. To stripes in that part your inattention to your Latin may authorise you to lay some claim. But, heavens! how capacious is their size! The tailor, indeed, seems to have repented of his extravagance, by peckering up a part of them. But what means that broad strap under the foot? Is it to prevent their slipping off over your head? or are you possessed of the prospective policy of Sam Scribble, who suffered at

the Old Bailey for signing a wrong name on a banker's cheque; and who artfully passed two leather thongs under his feet, that he might, by annexing them to the hangman's noose, enable himself to vibrate his half-hour without strangulation. Upon this count I defy you to plead a set-off."

"My reverend uncle," answered the pertinacious nephew, "far be it from me to tax you with laxity either of principles or pantaloons; but I hope you will permit me again to call your recollection to the portrait painted by Hoppner. You are there exhibited in"—"Not loose trousers, I'll be sworn."—"No, uncle, not loose trousers, but tight leather breeches. No sooner had Mrs. Thislewood told her story about your coat, than Captain Paterson matched it with another about your leather breeches."

"Indeed!" cried Mr. Robertson, drawing himself up, and looking out for Platt's ferry-boat, "and, pray, what might the nautical gentleman say?" "Why, he said, uncle, that he once called upon you when you were trying on a new pair of doeskins. The maker of them stood by to comfort and assist you. You were suspended, he said, in mid air, like Mahomet's coffin. When you had, by dint of struggling and kicking, got tolerably well into them, the operator drew from his pocket two iron hooks, to button them at the knees. He also told Mrs. Thislewood that you stood the agonizing process with the patience of a primitive martyr, until the third button of the right knee burst its cerements, and went off like the cork of a ginger-beer bottle."

"Well, sir, and pray what happened then?" "Why, then, uncle, he says, that you said something very like 'Oh, damn it!' After which, Captain Paterson added that he does not know what happened, as he turned very sick, and left the room, and so was prevented from beholding the conclusion of the operation."

Mr. Robert Robertson, in deep displeasure, now summoned all his syllogistic powers. He was upon the eve of flatly denying the truth of the captain's assertion—of proving that folly and foppery were weeds of mo-

der growth; that *his* uncle never had occasion to lecture *him* upon his extravagance or coxcombry thirty years ago; and, finally, that propriety of exterior and soundness of intellect had quitted this country on or about the commencement of the French revolution. Unfortunately, however, this chain of demonstrations was sundered, never to re-unite. Platt hove in sight; uncle and nephew entered the boat; and the presence of two market-gardeners and a footman in livery prevented Mr. Robert Robertson from establishing the superiority of the human race—thirty years ago!

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

## NO. VI.

The Clubs of London, in their variety and hostility, resemble the Clans of Scotland. The Highland lass ridicules the Lowland lads. So the spurred and booted member of Brookes's, casting an eye of scorn upon the vista of Albemarle-street, dubs the Alfred a congress of blue-stocking old women. The Union sets at nought the Verulam, while the brethren of the latter think that, with the title of Lord Bacon, they have exclusively inherited no small portion of his learning and sagacity. The Beef-steak Club meets under the roof of the Lyceum; Rich, its founder, was proprietor of Covent Garden Theatre: *ergo*, its members must eat and drink within Thespian walls. Partridge would have dubbed this a *non sequitur*; but logic in his day was only in its infancy. The Thespian club assembles at Molard's Tavern in Great Russell-street. Every syllable there uttered must smack of the side-scene. If you drink with your neighbour, it is "Measure for Measure." In raising the glass you exclaim, "So the King drinks to Hamlet:" and if you differ in opinion with the gentle-

man who sits next to you, you ejaculate with Marc Antony, "O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth."

The two coteries last mentioned pique themselves upon their intellects, and speak with utter scorn of the Eccentrics in Maiden-lane, who black their faces with burned cork: while the latter shrug their shoulders at the bare mention of the Catamarans, whose merit consists in mere noise, and from whose symposium in Martlet-court are heard the heart-quailing sounds of brass-pans, mail-horns, shrieks, yells, and gun-powder explosions.

Not the least singular establishment of this kind is the "Unsuccessful" Club at the Bedford, so called from its members having failed in dramatic writing. One damned farce entitles a man to become a member *instantly*. If his comedy be withdrawn after the second night, he must be balloted for. But if his tragedy be hissed off during the first act, he comes in by acclamation, and may order what dinner he pleases. The perpetual president, with a silver catcall at his button-hole, attained that eminence by a long career of damnation. He proudly boasts that, during a seven years' probation, his most endurable dramatic bantling was a melo-drame that set every body asleep. He counts his hisses as a warrior does his wounds, and hopes in time, by dint of bad writing, to make the people in the pit tear up the benches.

The last association, upon which I shall rather dilate, is called the Epigram Club. Young Culpepper, whom I immortalised in a former letter, is a member. At the close of that epistle I left him with his family, and the elegant Captain Augustus Thackeray, prepared to adjourn on the following evening to the Adelphi Theatre, to witness the performance of Tom and Jerry. Five in number, they mounted a hackney coach. The captain, ashamed of his coadjutors, shrank back, and dreaded recognition all the way from Ludgate-hill to the corner of Cecil-street. It was a vain apprehension: every man calling himself a Christian at half after six is dressing for dinner. The coach drew up opposite

Adam-street. Surprised at the quietness of the rabble, the party dismounted, and on going up to the door of the theatre found it closed.

It was the first Wednesday in Lent ! I will not mention, "to ears polite," the place to which the elder Culpepper consigned the Lord Chamberlain. Still, the execration was not "Sesamy ;" so the portals continued closed. "We have nothing left for it," said the father, as he bundled the two ladies back into the coach, "but to return as wise as we came." "Suppose you and I go to the Epigram Club," said the son to the captain. The latter thought any port better than the storm of the slopseller, and gladly acceded to the proposal. "Where do you meet ?" said the dragoon, as he and his companion hastily turned up Southampton-street. "At the Wrekin," answered the other ; "you will find it a very agreeable lounge: I hope you have got an epigram ready." "Geud Gad ! not I," ejaculated the son of Mars. "I know a great many songs. I know 'Drink to me only,' and 'Fly not yet,' and 'Believe me of all these endearing young charms,' and the first verse of 'Had I a heart.' But as to epigrams, I only know one which begins—"

Here the hero was cut short in his narrative by an encounter with two waiters, who, with a brace of napkins and five brace of bows, ushered the two gentlemen upstairs. The company had assembled, and the dinner was upon the table. Captain Thackeray and young Culpepper had already dined upon cold beef and cucumbers in Savage Gardens. This, however, made no difference. Like James Boswell the elder, who regularly dined at the Sheriff of London's table twice in each day during the Old Bailey sessions, the two friends felt a returning appetite, and played as good a knife and fork as if nothing had happened.

On the removal of the cloth, the president gave three knocks with his hammer upon a table, whose dented surface bore evident tokens of many former attacks of the same sort. Silence being procured, he commenced his harangue by reminding the society that, there, nobody



was required to sing : that it was gothic barbarity to call upon a gentleman to struggle with a cold and hoarseness : that the organs of singing were frequently deranged, those of speaking very seldom : and, therefore, that the usages of this institution were highly rational, inasmuch as no man there was called upon for a song, but every man for an epigram.

Then, addressing himself to the member on his right, with the most amusing gravity, he exclaimed, "Mr. Merryweather, may I trouble you for an epigram?" Mr. Merryweather, thus accosted, begged to remind the company, that on the Bow Street side of Covent Garden theatre stood a statue of Comedy and another of Tragedy. "You are right, sir," said Culpepper, "and they both look so sober, that it would puzzle Garrick himself to say which was which." "You have hit it, sir," answered Merryweather ; upon that subject hinges my epigram. It is as follows :—

With steady mien, unaltered eye,  
The Muses mount the pile;  
Melpomene disdains to cry,  
Thalia scorns to smile.

Pierian springs when moderns quaff,  
'Tis plainly meant to show  
Their Comedy excites no laugh,  
'Their Tragedy no woe."

A pretty general knocking of glasses upon the table denoted that this sally told well ; and the society, as in duty bound, drank Mr. Merryweather's health. "Mr. Morris," said the deputy chairman to a member on his right hand, "were you at the late masquerade at the Opera House?" "I was," answered Morris, with all the elation which is felt by a man who thinks he sees an opening for throwing in a good thing. "I went with Lump the leatherseller. He wore a domino, but he wanted to go in character."—"What character?"—"Charles the Second."—"Indeed ! and what made him alter his determination?"—"My epigram."—"O pray let us have it."—"Certainly."

To this night's masquerade, quoth Dick,  
By pleasure I am beckon'd,  
And think 'twould be a pleasant trick  
To go as Charles the Second.

Tom felt for repartee athirst,  
And thus to Richard said,  
You'd better go as Charles the First,  
For that requires no head."

"Bravo!" ejaculated the president, "your health, Mr. Morris: I think you are in a fair way of winning the silver medal. I don't think any of your successors will beat that. But we shall see. Mr. Vice, you will please to call upon Mr. Snaggs. We must take him in time, or the Hampstead stage will be too sharp for us." Snaggs, who for the last five minutes had been fidgeting and looking at his watch, with as much disengaged hilarity as falls to the lot of any married man who is tied to stage-coach hours, started from a reverie, and begged to inform the company that in his village resided a physician and a vicar, who often walked arm in arm together; "which circumstance," said Snaggs, "induced me to squib at them after the following fashion:

How D.D. swaggers, M.D. rolls!  
I dub them both a brace of noddies:  
Old D.D. has the cure of souls,  
And M.D. has the cure of bodies.

Between them both, what treatment rare  
Our souls and bodies must endure?  
One has the cure without the care,  
And one the care without the cure."

The applause which followed this effusion was so much louder than that which was excited by Mr. Morris, that the latter began to tremble for his silver medal. His fears, however, were groundless. Snaggs again looked at his watch, snatched up his hat, and, like the landlord in Joseph Andrews, "ran down stairs without any fear of breaking his neck."

The president now looked at his watch also: it pointed to the hour of nine: he exchanged a significant

glance with the vice-president (who also officiated as secretary : and the latter cast his eyes towards a mahogany box in the window-seat, and began to fumble for his keys. —“Silence, gentlemen,” exclaimed the former, —“and listen to a report of our committee, setting forth the objects and prospects of this institution.” The secretary then drew forth a red morocco bound book, and proceeded to business.

The report commenced by stating, that the object of the Epigram Club was to induce writers and speakers in general, by their precept and example, to compress what they might have to utter, into as small a compass as possible. The report dilated upon the alarming increase of forensic and parliamentary eloquence, and then enumerated the number of epigrams which, with a view of stopping the farther increase of the mischief, the committee had caused to be distributed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, a great portion of which had been translated into the Hindostan and Catabaw languages ; so that, to adopt their own phraseology, “they had the heartfelt delight of epigrammatizing the naked Gentoo and the tattooed Otaheitan.” The report then stated, that, by the exertions of the committee, seventeen epic poems had been strangled in their birth.

As a special instance of the efficacy of their labours, the report mentioned that Major Cartwright, at a late meeting at the Mermaid at Hackney, had reduced his oration within the compass of seven hours ; and that Mr. Gale Jones had not said the same thing more than seven times. The committee concluded by lamenting that, in the midst of their apparently prosperous career, the demon of Circumbendibus (so was he denominated in the report) had suddenly reared his hydra head, and, though pelted by a large assortment of cheap epigrams, had maintained a running fight until he had reached his camp in the liberties of Westminster. The report added, that the demon had lately “grown fat and kicked,” in his two strongest citadels, the Court of King’s Bench and St. Stephen’s Chapel ; but that, aided by the speaker in the latter, and the judges in the former, mem-

s and junior counsel were henceforth to be limited in their harangues ; and that, upon the whole, the committee relied with confidence in the hope, that in the process of a century or so, lawyers and senators would be seduced either to speak in epigram, or to hold their tongues.

'A dry subject, Mr. Secretary," exclaimed the chairman. "Mr. Daffodil, pray favour us with an epigram." This request was addressed to a slender young man, who sat 'like a lily drooping,' and had all the air of having been recently jilted. Thus called upon, he started from the reverie in which he appeared to be plunged, and in a silver tone spoke as follows :

"To Flavia's shrine two suitors run  
And woo the fair at once:  
A needy fortune-hunter one,  
And one a wealthy dunce.

How, thus twin-courted, she'll behave,  
Depends upon this rule—  
If she's a fool she'll wed the knave,  
And if a knave the fool."

This effort was received with some applause, but it did not quite amount to a hit. The company seemed to opine that knave and fool were not fit names to call anybody. It mattered little what they thought, young Daffodil had relapsed into his reverie. The following was pronounced considerably better :

"My thrifty spouse, her taste to please,  
With rival dames at auctions vies;  
She dotes on everything she sees,  
And everything she dotes on buys.

I with her taste am quite enchanted:  
Such costly wares, so wisely sought!  
Bought, because they may be wanted;  
Wanted, because they may be bought."

"I should not be at all surprised," said Captain Mackernay to the utterer of this *jeu d'esprit*, "if Mrs. Cockhouse gave you that idea. You must know her—

she lives in Castle Street, Holborn, and spends the whole morning in picking up things remarkably cheap. She bought the late Irish giant's boots; she has no occasion for them at present, but they may come into play. Last Wednesday she met with a capital bargain in Brokers' Row, Moorfields—a brass door-plate, with Mr. Henderson engraved upon it: it only cost her ninepence half-penny. Should anything happen to Backhouse, and she be afterwards courted by anybody of the name of Henderson, there is a door-plate ready."

This sally, proving successful, drew the attention of the club towards the utterer; and the chairman told him, that when his turn arrived, he had no doubt of his favouring the company with an excellent epigram; adding, "in the mean while, sir, I believe it is my turn:

Two Harveys had a separate wish  
To please in separate stations;  
The one invented Sauce for fish,  
The other Meditations.

Each has his pungent powers applied  
To aid the dead and dying;  
That relishes a Sole when fried,  
'This saves a Soul from frying."

"Gentlemen," said the member whose turn was next in succession, "I have a weighty objection to all that has been hitherto uttered. An epigram should not be extended to eight lines; and I believe all that we have heard this evening, have been of that length. Four lines ought to be the *ne plus ultra*: if only two, so much the better. Allow me to deliver one which was uttered by an old gentleman, whose daughter Arabella importuned him for money:

Dear Bell, to gain money, sure, silence is best,  
For dumb Bells are fittest to open the chest."

"I am quite of your opinion," said he who followed; "and in narrating an epitaph by a disconsolate husband upon his late wife, I mean to confine myself within the same Spartan limits:

Two bones from my body have taken a trip,  
I've buried my Rib, and got rid of my *Hyp*."

"Now, captain," said the president, addressing himself to young Culpepper's mustachio'd associate. The dragoon started, and waxed rather red. "Oh me, is it? Geud Gad! I'm very sorry—I can't at this moment—Really, it's very ridiculous: Oh, now I remember, 'Had I a heart for falsehood framed—'" "Beg pardon, sir," said the president, "but that's Sheridan." "Oh, true, I had forgotten; well then—'Drink to me only with thine eyes'" "Beg pardon again, sir, but that's Ben Jonson." Oh, true! Geud Gad! how uncommonly stupid! Oh! now I have it: 'Quoth Sylvia to a reverend dean—'" "Beg pardon again, sir, but that's Swift." "Swift is it? Geud Gad! I could have sworn it was my own. Pray, must it be in English?" "No, sir, we are not confined to any language." "Well, then, I will give you a Latin one. My friend Culpepper and I, coming out of the Opera House last Saturday, got into a dispute with a hackney-coachman. Upon which I collared him, and he collared me, and he tore the silk-facing of my cloak. Upon which says Culpepper, Who is to mend it? Upon which said I, Nobody can replace the silk-facing but the man who made the cape: because, according to the Latin adage,

Qui capit ille facit.

Now I think I have beaten the two gentlemen who epigrammatized last. They have made a great merit of confining themselves to two lines, and, egad! I have confined myself to one." "Your quantum of merit, sir," said the chairman very gravely, "will depend upon the votes of the gentlemen present."

A dark mahogany balloting-box was now produced: each member had two votes: the several epigrams were proposed, and balloted for, in rotation: and upon drawing forth the balls, it was ascertained that each person had given one favourable ball to his own epigram, and one to Captain Thackeray's: thus intimating, that, next

to his own production, the superior merit lay with the Latin adage.

"Our visitor has it," said the president; and at the same time, with great ceremony, threw over the captain's head a blue silk ribbon, to which was appended a silver medal. "Good God! it's very like a Waterloo Medal," exclaimed the son of Mars, and sat as proud as a peacock until the meeting broke up.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

### NO. IX.

#### THE AMATEUR ACTOR.

Acting is like the small-pox. Garrick, and a chosen few besides, took it in the natural way; others, trained to it from childhood, or associating with those who were, are inoculated with it. Captain Augustus Thackeray has lately exhibited symptoms of the disease. He sickened at Woolwich, became feverish in Tottenham street, and took to his bed upon the regular boards.

I thought his clipping the portraits out of Oxberry's edition of the acting drama, and his sticking them round his dressing-room, would come to no good. But the fountain-head of the slaughter was his knowing a man who was intimate with a family who had half a box at Covent Garden Theatre. In his access to this, he frequently found a-jar "the ivory gate" that leads behind the scenes.

Man has a natural appetite for the side-scenes of a theatre. Thither our military hero occasionally adjourned, cautiously keeping to the side opposite the prompter, lest that ringer of many bells should be so rude as to inquire his business. It is a hazardous affair to get near actors. We are apt to make comparisons

which always redound to our own exaltation. "Macready is great in *Virginius*," said Augustus Thackeray to himself, "but I think I could do the part better: my voice is to the full as loud as his. Charles Kemble's *Mark Antony* is a finished performance: but, thank Heaven! he has no exclusive patent for playing the part, whatever his privileges may be as one of the proprietors of the establishment. I'll go home and study. 'See what an envious rent hath *Casca* made:' I knew it quite perfect at Harrow, so I shall soon recover it."

Those light clouds of self-conceit which float occasionally around the heads of unfledged ensigns and beardless barristers-at-law, showing to them in shadowy perspective the Field Marshal's baton and the Lord Chancellor's mace, soon enveloped the upper regions of Captain Thackeray. To complete the obumbration, his brother officers at Woolwich gave him the part of Colonel Briton, in the "*Wonder*." That garrison has for some years been famous for "cleaving the general ear with horrid speech." William Congreve wrote comedies, and a baronet of the same name invented rockets. They are both clever men in their way: but "*Love for Love*" is a pleasanter concern to witness in its progress, than an elliptical cannon-ball. So, at Woolwich, comedies are at present all the vogue, and the rockets are despatched to do duty at Vauxhall Gardens.

Augustus Thackeray was highly complimented for his performance of Colonel Briton. Old Culpepper (who went down by the Southend steam-boat on purpose to witness it) said that in some scenes it ran Charles Holland rather hard; and Mrs. General Macgorget only wished that her nephew Tom Tankerville had played it half as well: he would not then have been laughed at as he was: but he was always a headstrong lad, and for her part she was quite sick of giving him advice.

All this was oil to the flame, and Augustus got himself introduced to Charles Kemble the very next evening. The dilettanti performances of the preceding night were of course the subject of conversation. "We at Woolwich," said Thackeray, "have one great advantage over



you at the regular theatre—a very great advantage”—“May I ask what it is?”—“Why, among you, there are two or three very good, and all the rest are sticks; but with us at Woolwich we have no *bad* actors.”

The manager, who plays the part of a perfect gentleman, (a character of which he would find it difficult to divest himself, either on the stage or off,) answered only with a bow. He might have replied, “No good ones, you would say:” even as a house in the Regent’s Park is a subject upon which it is difficult to agree; the friends of the edifice maintaining that it unites the advantages of town and country, and its enemies maintaining that it absorbs the disadvantages of each. Be that as it may, on the Wednesday following Thackeray was “at it again.”

There is a theatre in Tottenham-street which is noted for enticing slender cornets from Hounslow barracks, and indentured linendrapers from Oxford street. Our Captain of course took refuge beneath its portico. He opened there in the Duke Aranza in the “Honey Moon,” and was in the highest possible spirits upon the occasion. His grace has to dress three times during the five acts. This, according to Augustus, was a high feather in the cap of the character. “It is a capital part,” he observed to Lord Robert Rantor, who was cast for Rolando; “I don’t know a better part. First, there’s the Duke’s private dress: puce-coloured velvet, a beaver hat, a slouched feather, and sugar-loaf buttons—oh! it’s a great part! Then there’s the cottage dress: drab kerseymere with blue silk facings, high-topped gloves, and russet boots—oh! it’s an excellent part! Then there’s the Duke’s state dress in the last scene: a white plume and diamond button, crimson velvet cloak, and white satin trunks—oh! it’s a delightful part! I quite forgot the white shoes and red rosettes—I don’t think there’s a better part on the stage!”

The “Honey Moon,” as honey moons are wont to do, went off extremely well. Audiences are very indulgent when there is nothing to pay. Few things sour a critic more than pulling three shillings and sixpence from his

breeches pocket. "Pray, my lord," said Old Culpepper to Lord Robert, "what was the name of the gentleman who played Lopez? He had not much to do: nothing, indeed, but to invite the Duke and Juliana to the village dance; but, I must confess, he threw all the rest of you into the back-ground. Pray, what is his name?" "His name!" answered Lord Robert,—“oh, that was Billy Bawl, the call-boy from Covent-garden.”—“The call-boy? Impossible!”—“Oh, no! it 's very true; we paid him thirty shillings.” “What a shame!” exclaimed the old slopseller: “only a call-boy? why don't the Covent-garden proprietors put him into Macbeth, or young Mirabel, or Artaxerxes, or something of that sort?” “Why, the fact is, Sir,” said the noble amateur, “at Covent-garden poor Billy never gets beyond ‘Your ladyship's carriage;’ or, at farthest, ‘This way, if you please, Sir.’ Because the poor fellow is cowed by the regular actors—sad overbearing dogs: but here he is among gentlemen, who put him quite at his ease in a moment.”

Lord Robert Ranter has interest with the proprietors. He generally palms some “stick of an actor” upon them once in every season. These would twine “like ivy round a sapling” upon the establishment, but the two old oaks weather it out. Lord Robert spoke to the proprietors about Augustus Thackeray. He might be mistaken: we are all liable to error; but, for his part, he had never seen a more promising *début* than his Duke Aranza: his style seemed to be something between John Kemble's and Kean's; free, however, from the stateliness of the one, and the familiarity of the other; he should recommend the proprietors by all means to jump at him; he knew that Elliston would give any money for him, &c. &c. &c.

The result was, that the redoubtable Captain got an engagement at Covent-garden Theatre. The terms were neither thirty, no, nor even twenty-five pounds a week. “No matter; money was not his precise object; and there was no doubt the public voice would force the proprietors to cancel his present articles, and treat him

with greater liberality. The cases of Kean and Miss O'Neil were precisely in point. He was determined, for his part, to show the town what gentlemanly acting was. Garrick was a gentleman: he had driven his tilbury last week down to Hampton to see his effects on sale, and he must say that a more gentlemanly turn-out he had seldom witnessed. Not that he meant to patronize the drawing-room chairs; they were decidedly too short in the elbow; and the Hogarths were vulgar: no elegance in the subjects, and no delicacy in the manner of treating them. But still Garrick himself was a gentleman, and the view he had from his drawing-room window across the dwarf wall upon the Thames was in capital taste. Garrick showed them how a gentleman could act, and he was determined to do the same."

"Now heavily in clouds came on the day" when Thackeray, as the Prince of Denmark, was to slouch the accustomed left stocking upon the boards of Covent-garden Theatre. All his friends were mustered upon the occasion: but what are all any man's friends in a winter theatre? According to the calculation of Socrates, they might be stuffed into one box, without incommoding each other. In the stage-box, on the Prince's side, sat Lord Robert Ranter with his cousin Sir Hans Dabs Oliphant, a great admirer of Shakspeare, every line of whose works he professes thoroughly to understand in spite of his commentators. Sir Hans Dabs brought with him a printed copy of the Hamlet of the immortal bard (upon whom he is himself a commentator in manuscript) bound up with other plays. It is his invariable custom thus to check the actors: and woe be to the wight who misplaces a syllable! Sir Hans has his eye on his book, and invariably sets the offender down for a ninny. Should anything happen to the prompter, there is no baronet in all Marybone parish so well fitted to supply his place. But to return to the hero of the night.

Things went on pretty tolerably until the closet-scene between Hamlet and his mother, "Now for the tug of war," said Lord Robert to his companion. "This is *my*

great scene. At Richmond I always get three rounds of applause in it. I admit, my cloak is made of real Genoa velvet: there was a great deal in that: but still in justice to myself I must confess, that my Hamlet is as fine a piece of acting as has been seen since John Kemble: I speak out: egad! I give it to my mother in the true Nero style!"

Whether the audience objected to such treatment of a mother, or whether the elevated elbow once more gave tokens of the separation of sleeve and body, I know not. Certain, however, it is, that coughing now became the order of the night. "I never knew colds more general," said the unconscious amateur as he quitted the stage. "Lord love you, Sir!" said Billy Bawl, (who was now reinstated in his proper station behind the regular scenes,) "they have no more colds than that kettle-drum: it is you they are coughing at." "Me!" exclaimed Thackeray, "if I thought the public meant to affront me, damme if I would not pull its nose." "The public has no nose," said a little dapper farce-writer at his elbow. "How do you know that, Sir?" fiercely demanded the captain. "Because," answered the author, "I have found by experience that it has no bowels: I therefore infer by parity of anatomy that it has no nose."

"The beautified Ophelia," as Shakspeare, foreseeing that Miss Foote would play the character, has aptly denominated her, was by this time dead and buried. Laertes had attended the funeral, and had jumped upon the coffin. "That is an act which I could never reconcile with decorum," said Lord Robert to the critical baronet. "Is it customary in Denmark to jump upon the coffin of the defunct?" "Yes, when a brother attends a funeral," valiantly rejoined Sir Hans Dabs Oliphant. Critics do not stand upon trifles. Lord Robert was silenced.

The spectacle of "a great man struggling with the storms of fate" was a most agreeable pastime to the gods of Greece. It still continues so to those of the upper gallery of our winter theatres. Thackeray was quizzed and tormented by those avenging deities, until

the green curtain dropped upon the fifth act. "There is a very noisy fellow in the upper gallery," said the amateur, as he rose from his fall, aided by two scene-shifters. "There is," answered the same little dapper damned author; "and he is like the late French republic, the whole house—one and indivisible."

The friends of the new actor, in front, behaved as new actors' friends usually do. Old Culpepper heartily wished the young man had turned his hand to some other trade. Lady Newbiggin and her plump daughter ascribed it all to those horrid radicals in the galleries: they knew who set them on: there was a man in a red night-cap, very like T——, that was particularly noisy: for their parts, they never could see the use of the water tank upon the roof, if it was not opened to duck discontent: but, upon the whole, they must say that they thought the performance but so so.

The subject of all this criticism, in the mean time, had retreated to his lodgings in Hart street, Bloomsbury, where he slept soundly, unconscious of his failure. It is the case in all the arts; there is not a humpbacked man, in all London and Westminster, who does not fancy himself an Adonis. Not that Thackeray was unaware of the discord in the house, but he ascribed it to every cause but the true one. Colds and hoarseness were never more common. Besides, there was evidently a party sent in: probably by Young or Macready: jealousy is proverbially a green-room failing: for his part, he thought the proper reading was not "Beware of jealousy, it is a green-eyed monster." No! Shakespeare evidently wrote it "Green-room monster! and so he would deliver it, when he should be put up for Iago.

With this valiant determination, out sallied Thackeray, and in passing through Newport market, saw, skewered upon the back of a dead sheep, a large play-bill, upon which "Theatre Royal Covent-garden—Macbeth," was imprinted in legible characters. The poor animal, even in death, seemed conscious of "the bloody business" of which it was the herald, its nose having marked the pavement below with a sympathetic crim-

son tint. "Oh! Macbeth!" ejaculated Thackeray, "that is my next part; but I wish they would not expect me to play upon opera-nights. Macbeth was a thorough gentleman; it is true, he killed his friend Banquo, and did not behave quite hospitably to King Duncan; but still he was a thorough gentleman: John Kemble was always too frigid in it, and Garrick wanted height: yes, Garrick was a punchy little fellow, and dressed the character in scarlet breeches: Macbeth is nothing without figure."

By this time the Thespian Captain had entered Portugal-street, where an old mirror, suspended in a broker's shop, "reflected him back to the skies," as the Reverend Bate Dudley has it. Thackeray was well pleased with the exhibition, and walked on, repeating, "Macbeth is nothing without figure."

On his return home, he found that the messenger, whose duty it is to distribute the parts of the play next in representation, had been at his residence, and had left a manuscript for his perusal. It lay upon his breakfast-table, and the word "Macbeth" was written in a fair legible hand upon the outside cover. "Oh, here it is," cried he, carelessly—

"A happy prologue to the swelling act  
Of this imperial theme."

So saying, he opened the fly leaf, and read "Mr. Thackeray—Macbeth, *the Bleeding Captain*." "What!" exclaimed the astonished débutant, when he was able to resume his breath; "me—expect me to act the bleeding Captain? expect a perfect gentleman to stagger on with two cuts on his forehead, and one on his cheek, to tell that stupid old fool Duncan what a number of men his two generals had knocked on the head? I won't do it—there must be some mistake."

"Drive to Soho-square," cried the new actor, jumping into a hackney cabriolet. The manager received him *suaviter in modo*, but, as touching the bleeding Captain, *fortiter in re*: he was cast for the part, and must perform it. "Never," ejaculated Thackeray:

"when I engaged as an actor, it was under an idea that I should act what I pleased and when I pleased."—"And therefore, and at what salary you pleased," said the manager. "and you would make our profession 'a bed of roses.' As affairs now stand, however, I am afraid that you are under anxiety to play what and when the proprietors please, under a penalty of thirty pounds."

This remonstrance staggered the tragedian. "Have you any objection to give me up my articles?" inquired he. "None whatever," answered the other, delivering them up to him. "Cancel and tear in pieces this great bond," commanded Thackeray, scattering the fragments of the document to the winds.—"and as for you, sir," turning to the proprietor of the mansion, "allow me to say, that if I ever act again upon your boards, and you don't keep your audience in better order, damme if I don't call them out."—"Do but contrive to call them in," answered the manager, "and I will undertake to re-engage you for three years, at a rising salary."

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. I.

### ACTUAL LEAVES.

Who has not heard of the Duke of Buckingham, who was driven from London to Mulgrave Castle, Yorkshire, by the great plague? On the abatement of that scourge, in the autumn of the same year, the duke made preparations for returning to his favourite Mall in St. James's Park. His rural tenants waited upon him in a body to bewail his departure, and respectfully asked when they might hope to see him again. "Not till the next plague," answered his grace. The same duke, by the way, thus decreed a dog that had offended him: "Get along with

you for a rascally cur! Ah, I wish you were married and settled in the country."

The late Duke of Queensberry must be well remembered by most middle-aged inhabitants of the metropolis. Often has my disembodied shade flitted under Lord William Gordon's wall, opposite the veteran's Piccadilly residence, to gaze upon him, with his straw hat, green parasol, and nankeen trousers bleached by repeated ablutions. "Does not your grace find London very empty?" bawled a morning visitor in his soundest ear, on the fifteenth day of a hot September. "Yes," answered the duke; "but it is fuller than the country."

These are the only two men, of whom I ever heard, who pleaded a justification on being seen, like autumnal leaves, scattered about the streets of London during the fall of the year. Many others have pleaded a general justification. Doctor Johnson said, he who is tired of London is tired of existence. Charles Morris eulogizes "the sweet shady side of Pall Mall," in strains which, like his favourite beverage, become the mellow for age; and Doctor Mosley used to say, "I am half-distracted whenever I go into the country; there is such a noise of nothing." All these were celebrated men, who could brazen it out. The common herd of mortals invent excuses: they shuffle like a May-day sweep, and lie like the prospectus of a new magazine. They never saw the humours of Bartholomew Fair before: they could not, till last Sunday, get a ticket to hear the Reverend Edward Irving: they have a particular wish to see "the Great Unknown" in the Haymarket; or the pavement of St. James's Square is about to be Mac-adamised, and they are bent upon patronising the process.

Lord Robert Ranter is still sneaking about St. James's Street. I call it sneaking, because, if his optics start any being near the palace, he backs up Bury Street; or, if hard pushed, he is intently eager upon deciphering the allusions in the caricature-shop. Dean Swift tells us that two of the brothers in the Tale of a Tub made great circuits to avoid meeting, whereby it usually happened that they encountered each other.



So it fell out last Wednesday with Lord Robert and Captain Augustus Thackeray. The former saw the dapper farce writer mentioned in my last skipping down St. James's Street, and the latter beheld young Culpepper swaggering up it. Both were, of course, ashamed of being autumnal leaves, and both, at the same moment, bolted into the pastrycook's shop on the right side as you walk from Pall Mall to Piccadilly. Each was, of course, surprised at meeting the other in London in September.

But the mischief did not end here. The farce writer was suddenly arrested in his brisk bobbing career by the odour of mock-turtle soup, and young Culpepper felt a *penchant* for a glass of cherry hounce. The consequence was, that all four met upon the floor of the confectioner. Now came the moment for the two pair of imaginations to come into play. Lord Robert was quite on the wing: he merely staid to see Madame Vestris commence her re-engagement. Captain Thackeray was never more surprised in his life than in finding himself in town: but the fact was, that his gun burst last week at Sir Frank Featherspring's, and he had merely come to purchase a new one. Young Culpepper had been summoned from Margate to oppose the discharge of an insolvent debtor; and the dapper farce writer had sprained his ankle in stepping out of a box at the Brighton theatre, and was come to town for advice.—Four greater falsehoods were never uttered under the roof of Westminster Hall!

The usual question of "Who would have thought of meeting you in town at this time of the year?" having been reciprocally propounded, all four of our autumnal leaves grew wondrous loving. "Misery," says the proverb, makes a man acquainted with strange bedfellows." September may be said to generate associations equally extraordinary. Young Culpepper proposed a dinner at his father's house in Savage Gardens on the following day. The invitation was joyfully acceded to.

As the party separated, young Culpepper and the farce writer issued together up Jermyn Street. "I de-

clare I am quite pleased with Lord Robert's manner," said the former; "I never knew him so gracious: what can it be owing to?" "The season," answered the dramatist: "people of fashion grow quite warm and hearty when nobody of any note sees them. If the sun were but half as hot, it would be a capital thing for the harvest." "Well! that accounts for it," ejaculated the young citizen. "Old Mrs. Poppleton stopped her carriage yesterday in Russell Square, on purpose to ask me to dine with her. She reproached me quite tenderly for never coming near her; and lo and behold! I found that the foundation of the feast was her want of a fourth to make up a rubber. She was beating the highways and hedges, and luckily happened to alight on me."

Old Culpepper received the party with great civility. He, too, was an autumnal leaf, and he, too, had his lie ready for being one. They could not get a house at Ramsgate; Broadstairs was too retired; and as for Margate, Mrs. Culpepper would not hear of it: so they meant next Saturday to try Brighton: he was aware there was a terrible mixture there, especially from Saturday to Monday; but the air might do Mrs. Culpepper's stomach good, and he himself had never seen a chain-pier.

After dinner, at which the "hot and hurried Jane" administered without being the authoress of any material catastrophe, Lord Robert Ranter expressed to Captain Thackeray his surprise at not having seen his name in the Covent Garden playbills, after the performance of Hamlet. "Why, the fact is," said the captain, "upon reflection, I did not think it quite a gentlemanly thing to supersede Kean or Macready; they enjoy a certain portion of popular favour, and, hang it, it would not be quite fair to clamber over their heads. No! I have lately been turning my mind toward writing plays, rather than acting them. Before dinner, I was looking over the life of Hayley, in Mr. Culpepper's window-seat yonder. I see that the poet, at his outset in life, speculated upon writing two plays per annum, which, at five hundred pounds each, (his estimated rate of profit),

would give him a thousand a year ; a very gentlemanly addition to any man's income. I rather believe that, in point of fact, Hayley never got a thousand pence from the theatre, which I am rather surprised at, for he was unquestionably a gentleman ; indeed, he behaved to both his wives in the highest style of fashion."

"At my dramatic outset," said the dapper farce writer, my expectations were not less sanguine than those of the poet of Eartham. My first production was a comedy, and my last one a farce." "I should like to know the history of both of them," said old Culpepper, pushing the bottle to him at the same time. "I had once some taste for the drama myself. I shall never forget poor John Palmer at the Royalty. Ah ! he was the man for Don Juan. I am told Lord Byron has failed lately in the part ; and well he may. Nobody will ever come up to John Palmer—there was a leg for you !"

"My first comedy," said the dramatist, "was called 'Love in Jeopardy : ' it was accepted by the proprietors of Covent Garden theatre." "I am sorry for it," said the founder of the feast ; "John Palmer was the man for comedy, and he was at Drury Lane. There was brown powder, poor fellow ! and such a pair of blue silk stockings !"

"Nothing could equal my joy at seeing it advertised in the red bills of the day," continued the writer of farces. "Except your fear at the drawing up of the curtain," said Thackeray. "Egad ! that is an awful moment ; I felt it myself the other day in Hamlet. I slew whole squadrons at Waterloo, without a tenth of the trepidation I then felt."

"My piece was successful," continued the playwright ; "and at that time authors received their remuneration by taking the profits of the third, sixth, and ninth nights. The celebrated Cumberland shook my hand, and dubbed me the modern Congreve. On the third night, an envious shower of rain fell at six o'clock, insomuch that the expenses did not enter the house." "The rain might have thinned the pit and galleries," observed the honest slopseller, "but that could not have

kept the company away from the dress-boxes." "I beg your pardon, sir," retorted the follower of the Muses; "people of fashion in those days did not like to expose their horses; coachmen then did not want Mr. Martin of Galway to teach them humanity. Well! the sixth night arrived, and a finer night I never witnessed. I looked out upon the chapel-leads from the window of my lodgings in Martlet Court, and they were as dry as a bone. Off I went to the theatre at a quarter before six, and stationed myself in what was then called the slips. The house was very respectably filled, and I calculated upon at least a hundred pounds beyond the expenses. At the close of the first music, however, to my great annoyance, Lewis, the manager, made his appearance, and informed the house that Mr. Middleton having been taken suddenly ill, Mr. Toms had kindly undertaken to read the part of Courtly, and hoped for their usual kind indulgence. You might have knocked me down with a feather! Happily, however, the audience did not seem to think there was much to choose between Mr. Middleton and Mr. Toms; they accordingly slightly clapped with their hands, as much as to say, 'Well, well, go on.' The music, accordingly, continued, and I was ready to dance to it for joy. The prompter now rang his bell, and the green curtain slowly rising, discovered a genteel drawing-room, with two red chairs, and a sofa of the same material painted in the flats. Lewis, at this juncture, once more issued upon the stage. My heart was in my mouth! 'Ladies and gentlemen,' said the stage-manager, "I am extremely sorry to appear again before you, to entreat your farther indulgence; but the fact is, that Mrs. E——, who was to have played the part of Eugenia, is taken so alarmingly ill, that her life is despaired of: under this awful visitation, Mrs. Twiselden has kindly undertaken—' The audience would hear no more: groans, hisses, catcalls, and sucked oranges, assailed the apologist from every quarter."

"I should like to see the sucked orange that dared fly at John Palmer," said old Culpepper; "ah he was the

man for an apology—such a white cambric handkerchief.”

“Lewis retreated, of course,” said the narrator, “and in two minutes reappeared, with a proposal couched in the following words: ‘Ladies and gentlemen, I feel greatly concerned at having excited your displeasure, and have only to add that I am authorized by the proprietor to inform you, that whoever objects to this arrangement may again receive his money at the door.’ ‘Oh! very well,’ exclaimed at least two hundred voices, and away stalked the utterers to the right and left, carrying away my property in their pockets. Scarcely knowing what I did, I rushed out of the house, and ran, as if the devil drove me, to Mrs. E——’s abode. The drawing-room windows of the lady glittered with lights, and ostrich feathers were waving in every direction. My thundering appeal to the knocker brought to the door her mother. ‘Good heavens! madam,’ said I, ‘I have left the theatre in the greatest confusion from the absence of your daughter.’ ‘Oh! sir, whined the matron, ‘such an alarming illness.’—‘Illness, madam! what, with all these lamps and ostrich feathers!’ ‘Oh! only a few particular friends to keep up her spirits,’ rejoined the old lady. Finding that nothing was to be gained in that quarter, I returned to Covent Garden, and discovered a ‘beggary account of empty boxes.’ ‘Really, sir,’ said I to Lewis, ‘I think that, under the circumstances, the theatre should allow the money that *was* in it.’—‘You may try ’em if you please,’ said Lewis, with his accustomed jerk of the head, ‘but I think I can venture to say you won’t catch them at it.’ ”

“Fill your glass, sir,” said Culpepper; “I think I can venture to say that poor John Palmer would never have served you so. Ah, there was a leg! and such a pair of silver buckles! I see him now, starting back and making his hair-powder fly over the fiddlers’ heads. Well, but your ninth night?”

“Oh! on the ninth night,” said the poet, “the play was Fontainville Forest, a stupid ghost thing of Bowden’s.”—“I wonder you did not call Lewis out,” ob-

served Captain Thackeray ; "there's nothing like a bullet for making people civil. So much for your first play ; and now for your last farce."

"Not till you have tasted this cool bottle," said old Culpepper : "there, try that ; you may be a very good poet, but you are a bad hand at passing the bottle. Ah, poor John Palmer ! he was the man for passing the bottle ; we shall never see the bottle passed again ! But I beg pardon ; you were going to tell us about your last farce."

"Why, the history of my last farce," said the bard, "is told in two words : it was neither more nor less than egregiously and unanimously damned. Not a single point told. They set off dully ; and when once the audience are at fault, the very things that would otherwise delight are sure to disgust. In order to imbibe unbiassed opinions, I had stationed myself in the two-shilling gallery. How short-sighted an expedient ! The people there were absolutely frantic with rage. The author was a villain : they only wished they had him there ; might the devil fetch them, if they would not throw him over into the pit. Alarmed for my personal safety, I followed an orange-woman up the benches, and stole out of that populous pandemonium. . Awhile I hesitated on the brink of the upper row. "Shall I stop here ?" said I to myself, "or shall I stop at the stage-door ?"

"Stop any thing but the bottle," interrupted the founder of the feast.

"Well, at length I slowly paced down stairs, walked into Hart street, and entered at the stage-door. Afraid to face the pity of the actors in the green-room, I wandered amid the scenery at the back of the stage, among a motley assemblage of baronial castles, woods, cascades, butchers' shops, and Chinese pagodas : yet still the howls and hisses rang in my ears. While standing there, like Orestes tortured by the Furies, two scene-shifters saw and recognised me. 'Well, never mind, Dick,' said the one of them to the other, (affecting not to know me,) "I'll bet you a pot of beer this farce looks up, after all.' Thus I commenced my dramatic career by being put upon a level

with Congreve, and ended it by being pitied by a scene-shifter !”

“But, zounds !” exclaimed the Thespian captain, “you did not put up with it, did you ? where were your pistols ?” — “Put up with it !” said the poet, “to be sure I did : how could I help myself ?” — “Very badly,” said the slopseller, “if I may judge from your conduct here ; the bottle has stood at your right elbow two minutes and a half, and you have not helped yourself yet.”

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XI.

### ALMACK'S ON FRIDAY.

“The peculiar beauty of the British constitution, sir, consists in this,” said an opposition member to M. Cottu ; “every man, however humble his origin, may aspire to the highest honours of the state. Thus it is that industry and talents are excited : all men feel an interest in the fabric, and therefore no men league to overthrow it.”

The senator might have extended his eulogium. This aptitude for high places is not confined in England to the sonate, the pulpit, and the bar. The posts of fashion are as open to attack as the office of lord high chancellor ; and it is not a little amusing to observe the straits to which people of ton are driven to avoid a contact with *les bourgeois*. Bath, in the days of Beau Nash, was a resort for the great : so was Tunbridge Wells :—the North Parade and the Pantiles are now deserted. “The Moor is at the gate,” and no Christian can be seen there. Ranelagh, the *ci-devant* “third heaven” of beauties of high life, is levelled with the dust. In vain did the court make it unfashionable to be seen there before eleven. The east outbid

the west, and would not enter till half after that hour. Fashion withdrew in disgust, and Ranelagh perished.

A very few years ago, an autumn at Brighton was by no means an unfashionable affair. But, alas! in rushed all Cheapside, with the addition of Duke's-place. Coy Fashion took flight, and, when the coast was clear, re-settled upon the Steine at Christmas. This had all the appearance of a decisive victory. But not so: hardly were her tents pitched, when the populous east "poured from her frozen loins" an army of brokers, brewers, and broad-cloth venders, to shiver for a month upon the East Cliff.

Old Dixon, of Savage-gardens, was destined to be added to the frost-bitten fraternity. His neighbour Culpepper, who must likewise follow the fashion, called upon the worthy citizen, and found him in a sorry nan-keen kind of tenement, on the Marine Parade, gazing upon vacancy from out a bow-window which let in the winds from three points of the compass, until they inflated his carpet into the shape of a demi-balloon. "Well," said the visiter to his host, "I never thought you, of all people, would have chosen to put into Brighton at this time of the year."—"I did not choose to put in," answered Dixon; "I was driven in by stress of wife."

I really do not know what people of distinction are to do next; for if turkey, chine, plum-pudding, galanti-show, and twelfth-cake will not keep citizens in town, nothing will. To what Libyan desert, what rocky island in the watery waste, is high life now to retreat? St. Helena may do, the distance is too great to allow of men of business frequenting it; they cannot well run down from Saturday to Tuesday: but I decidedly think that nothing short of it will be effectual. The Island of Ascension is too full of turtle: the whole court of aldermen would be there, to a dead certainty.

There is a dancing establishment in King Street, St. James's Square, called *Almack's*. The proprietor of the mansion is named Willis. Six lady patronesses, of the first distinction, govern the assembly. Their fiat is



decisive as to admission or rejection: consequently "their nods men and gods keep in awe." The nights of meeting fall upon every Wednesday during the season. This is selection with a vengeance: the very quintessence of aristocracy. Three-fourths even of the nobility knock in vain for admission. Into this *sanctum sanctorum*, of course, the sons of commerce never think of intruding on the sacred Wednesday evenings: and yet into this very "blue chamber," in the absence of the six necromancers, have the votaries of trade contrived to intrude themselves. I proceed to narrate the particulars.

At a numerous and respectable meeting of tradesmen's ladies, held at the King's Head Tavern in the Poultry, Lady Simms in the chair, it was resolved, in order to mortify the proud flesh of the six occidental countesses above alluded to, that a rival Almack's be forthwith established, to meet on every Friday evening; that Mr. Willis be treated with as to the hiring of his rooms; that the worthy chairwoman, with the addition of Lady Brown, Lady Roberts, Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Wells, and Miss Jones, be appointed six lady patronesses to govern the establishment; that those ladies be empowered to draw a line of demarcation round the most fashionable part of the city, and that no residents beyond that circle be, on any account, entitled to subscriptions.

In the delivering out of subscriptions, I have heard it whispered that some tokens of partiality are discernible. Undue preferences are alleged to be given, which, if done in the way of trade, would force the obliged party to refund his debt for the equal benefit of himself and the rest of the creditors. Lady Simms's husband is a lottery-office keeper in Cornhill, and "they do say" that young men have but slender prospects of admission, if they omit to buy their sixteenths at his shop. Lady Brown's lord and master is a wax-chandler in Mansion-house Street; let no man who hopes to visit Almack's on Friday seek his spermaceti in any other shop. Sir Ralph Roberts is a wholesale ironmonger in

Birchin Lane. I have never heard that he is open to corruption in the way of trade; but he and Lady Roberts have six grown-up daughters, and the subscriber who fails to dance with them all in one night, may look in vain for a renewal of his subscription.

Mrs. Chambers's helpmate is a tailor. A rule has recently crept into the establishment that no gentleman shall be attired otherwise than in the old school of inexpressibles terminating at the knee. This regulation (which I believe originated with Mrs. Chambers) has been productive of much confusion. The common attire of most of the young men of the present day is trousers. These are uniformly stopped at the door, and the unhappy wearer is forced either to return home to re-dress, or to suffer himself to be sewed up by a member of the Merchant Tailors' Company, who attends in a private room for that purpose. This ceremony consists in doubling up the trousers under the knee, and stitching them in that position with black silk: the culprit is then allowed to enter the ball-room, with his lower man strongly resembling one of those broad immovable Dutch captains who ply in the long room at the Custom House.

It sometimes happens that the party thus acted upon by the needle, little anticipating such a process, has worn white under-stockings, and a pair of half black silk upper hose reaching but to the commencement of his calf. The metamorphosis, in these cases, is rather ludicrous, inasmuch as the subscriber re-appears with a pair of black and white magpie legs, and looks as if he had by accident stepped ankle-deep into a couple of ink-bottles. These poor fellows are necessarily forced, by the following Friday, to furnish themselves with a new pair of *shorts*. I am afraid Mrs. Chambers is at the bottom of all this. I have never heard of any corrupt motive having been assigned to Mrs. Wells; and Miss Jones is a maiden lady of forty-four, living upon a genteel independence.

About eight o'clock on every Friday evening, during the season, (for I assure you the city has its seasons)—

("a negro has a soul, your honour,") a large mass of hackney coaches may be seen plying about the purlieus of Cheapside, the same having been hired to convey our city fashionables to the scene of festivity.

Dancing commences precisely at nine, and the display of jewels would not discredit the parish of Marylebone. The large room with the mirror at the lower end is devoted to quadrilles. Waltzes were at first proscribed as foreign, and consequently indecent: but three of the six Miss Robertses discovered accidentally one morning, while two of the other three were tormenting poor Mozart into an undulating see-saw on the piano, that they waltzed remarkably well. The rule thenceforward was less rigidly enforced. Yet still the practice is rather scouted by the more sober part of the community. Lady Brown bridles, and heartily regrets that such filthy doings are not confined to Paris; while Lady Simms thanks God that *her* daughter never danced a single waltz in the *whole* course of her life. This instance of self-denial ought to be recorded, for Miss Simms's left leg is shorter than her right. Nature evidently meant her for a waltzer of the first water and magnitude, but philosophy has operated upon her as it did upon Socrates.

About three Fridays ago, an odd incident occurred. One Mrs. Ferguson and her daughter alighted at the outer door from a very clean hackney coach, delivered her card to Mr. Willis, and swept majestically past the grating up-stairs into the ball-room. On a more minute inspection of the document, it was discovered to be a forgery. What was to be done? The mother was sitting under the mirror, and the daughter was dancing for her life. Lady Simms, Mrs. Wells, and Miss Jones, (three make a quorum,) laid their heads together, and the result was a civil message to Mrs. Ferguson, requesting her and her daughter to abdicate. Mrs. Ferguson at first felt disposed to "show fight," but, feeling the current too strong, had recourse to supplication. This was equally vain: the rule was imperative: indeed, according to Sir Ralph Roberts, as unalterable as

the laws of the *Sweeds* and *Stertions*. The difference was at length split. A young stock-broker of fashion had just driven up from Capelcourt in a hackney cabriolet. Mamma was consigned to the pepper-and-salt coated driver of the vehicle; and Miss Ferguson was allowed to dance her dance out, Lady Brown undertaking to drop her safe and sound in Friday Street, in her way homeward, at the conclusion of the festivity.

It would be unpardonable to omit mentioning an incident, which, in the glorious days of immortal Rome, would have entitled our lady patronesses to six civic wreaths. The lord mayor of London, at the third meeting in last June, drove up to the door in his gorgeous private carriage, but, not having brought his ticket with him, his lordship was refused admittance, and was constrained to finish the evening at half-price at the Tottenham Street Theatre. I have already mentioned the generating of a mass of disaffection in the excluded faubourgs. Lady Pontop, the wife of Sir Peter Pontop, a coal-merchant in Tower Royal, is amongst the loudest of these malcontents. This lady, who has been nicknamed the city duchess, has been heard to utter threats about "knocking up Almack's," and mutters something about establishing a rival concern. The lady patronesses, however, laugh to scorn these symptoms of rebellion, and say that Cheapside has not lived to these days in comfort and credit, to be bearded by Tower Royal! A slight accident occurred last Friday se'nnight, which might have been attended with heavy effects. Young Carter, the broker, was quadrilling with Jemima Roberts: he had passed the ordeal of the Mount Ida step, wherein the shepherd is destined to foot it several seconds with three rival goddesses, and had looked as stiff and as sheepish as young men usually do at that effort, when he came suddenly and unexpectedly *dos-à-dos* against huge Miss Jones, who, though denominated a single woman, would make three of the ordinary size of the softer part of the creation. The consequences were obvious: the lady, weighty and elastic, stood firm as a rock, and "the

weakest went to the wall," young Carter, the slender broker, being precipitated head foremost against the wainscot.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XII.

### SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP.

Colonel and Mrs. Nightingale reside in Albemarle-street. The Colonel's movements may be said to form the two sides of an obtuse-angled triangle; that is to say, he rides into Hyde Park before dinner, and to the Opera-house in the Haymarket after it. Mrs. Nightingale reads the English poets: she possesses them all neatly bound, and placed upon a species of literary dumb-waiter. When tired of Sir Walter Scott, she has only to give her satin-wood machine a jerk, and "Cain, a Mystery," tumbles into her lap.

About two-and-thirty years ago, Jack Nightingale (as he was then called) quitted Westminster school. His most intimate crony at that establishment was George Withers, a fair round-faced boy with flaxen hair. Old General Nightingale, Jack's father, used to call him "the sweet little cherub," partly with reference to the chubby-cheeked ornaments of old tombstones, and partly to Dibdin's celebrated ballad, which introduces that bodiless personage at the close of every stanza. The cherub would often accompany young Nightingale to dine with the general in Hertford-street, May-fair.

Upon these occasions, the latter would take upon him to cross-examine his visitant in Latin. The general seldom advanced into the Roman territories beyond "Mars, Bacchus, Apollo;" but he continued, neverthe-

less, to make George Withers sit very uneasy upon his chair. Be that as it may, the friendship of the two boys was most exemplary. I am as fond of new quotations as the author of Saint Ronan's Well, and shall therefore satisfy myself with asserting, that

"In infancy their hopes and fears  
Were to each other known."

Time makes terrible havoc with school friendships. Jack Nightingale quitted Westminster, and became a member of his father's profession: George Withers entered the church, and became curate of Scoresby, in Yorkshire. For the first six months, nothing could be more constant than their correspondence. Many a one shilling and ninepence of theirs did my lords the joint postmasters pocket: after that period the attachment hung fire, like the New Post-office itself in St. Martin's le Grand. Something of importance was continually occurring to abbreviate their epistles: Jack Nightingale had to try on a new hussar cap, and George Withers had to bury an old woman. "So no more at present from," &c. &c.

The case is by no means a singular one. Gibbon, when living at Lausanne, was always hammering out an excuse for not writing to his friend Lord Sheffield. The fault, in these cases, seems to consist in attempting to apologize. Why not boldly leave off writing at once, and imitate the man with a toothache, who, after being pestered with seven civil inquiries from a friend, couched in the accustomed phrase, "How do you find yourself *now*," at length answered, "When there is any alteration, I will let you know."

The revolutionary French war now broke out, and Cornet Nightingale joined his regiment in Flanders. Two letters, "like angel visits," (another new quotation,) were despatched by him to his clerical Orestes from before Valenciennes. In one of these the following phrase occurred, "Our troops have sat down before the town." George Withers, in his reply, observed, "I am very glad to hear it, for the poor fellows must have

been sadly tired." Our military Pylades took this as a joke, but I confidently believe that it was written in sober seriousness. George Withers had heard talk of camp-stools, and concluded that the Duke of York had provided his weary troops with a due assortment of them. Upon the firing of these two epistolary shots, both batteries were silenced.

After a lapse of upwards of thirty years, one fine Saturday afternoon, in the last variable month of March, when Colonel Nightingale had availed himself of a gleam of sunshine to take his canter in the Park, his lady, busied at her rotatory book-stand, heard a hard double rap at the street-door. The two heavy concussions made her think it was either a twopenny postman or a twopenny creditor. In either case the affair excited but little emotion. John, however, in a few seconds entered the drawing-room, and informed his mistress that a fat man wished particularly to see Colonel Nightingale or his lady. "Show him up," said Mrs. Nightingale, "but leave the door ajar, and remain within call."

The door was re-opened, and in walked the Reverend George Withers. He begged pardon for intruding; but, being summoned up to town to attend a trial, (here he produced the subpoena,) he could not for the life of him avoid calling upon his old friend and schoolfellow, whom he had not seen for thirty years or upwards. He had had a vast deal of trouble in finding him out: at the Horse Guards he was referred to the United Service Club: he had turned, by mistake, into a large glass-shop, in what used, thirty years ago, to be called Cockspur-street, but the name was now changed to Pall Mall East, why he could not devise. The man at the counter was very civil, that he must say for him, but could give him no information: the two sentinels fronting Carlton Palace had contented themselves with shaking their heads; but at length Mr. Sams the bookseller, at the corner of St. James's-street, had cast his eye over a little thick red book, called Boyle's Court Guide, and had directed him to the proper place. Mrs. Nightingale received Mr. Withers, notwithstanding the decided *mauvais ton* of his

aspect, with great politeness. She intimated that she had often heard the colonel speak of his friend Withers, and how delighted he should be to meet with him again. The colonel was riding in Hyde Park, but she hoped and trusted that Mr. Withers would name an early day for partaking of a family dinner in Albemarle-street. Mr. Withers looked a little duller than usual at this *sine die* adjournment, and said that he must go back to Scoresby on the morrow. Mrs. Nightingale hereupon hoped that Mr. Withers would so far oblige them, as to partake of their humble fare to-day. The reverend gentleman acquiesced with alacrity; and after many bows, and backing against a frail mahogany table with a chess-board, where knights and pawns were precipitated to the ground, took his departure to the New Hummums.

"I have invited a friend to dine with you to-day," said Mrs. Nightingale, as her spouse with splashed boots entered the room. The brow of Colonel Nightingale lowered. "My dear, how could you be so dreadfully inconsiderate—Are you aware that it is Opera night?" "True," rejoined the lady, "but the gentleman is obliged to quit town to-morrow." "He must be a very extraordinary gentleman, if he induces me to postpone Catalani." "I think, notwithstanding, that that consequence will follow, when you learn who it is."—"And pray who is it?" "What do you think of George Withers?" "What, my old crony at Westminster?" "Yes, he." "My dear Augusta, you have acted with your accustomed good sense. George Withers! I shall be delighted to see him! Why, it is nearly twenty years since we last saw each other." "For nearly twenty read upwards of thirty," thought Mrs. Nightingale, but she was too good a wife to give the erratum utterance.

Precisely at half-past six, the same sort of heavy double rap at the door denoted that George Withers had arrived. The schoolfellows advanced with delight to accost each other, but in the act of shaking hands mutually gave a start of astonishment. Good heaven! said Nightingale to himself, is it possible that this can



be Withers? and, Good heavens! said Withers to himself, is it possible that this can be Nightingale?—a sympathy of ejaculation, which could only proceed from friendship of such a long standing.

Dinner was immediately announced, and Mrs. Nightingale was destined to be *amused* by an eager recital of their mutual “hairbreadth scapes” at their ancient seminary. “Do you remember Sam Talbot?”—“To be sure I do. What is become of him?”—“He married a planter’s daughter, and settled in Tobago.”—“Where’s Lawrence?”—“Which of them, Charles or Robert?”—“Robert, I meant.”—“He is a barrack-master at Colchester.”—“And what’s become of Charles Enderby, who broke his leaping-pole, and fell into Drayton’s ditch in Tothill-fields?”—“Oh, he has purchased half a million of swampy acres in the back settlements of America!”—“Indeed!” well, he always had a turn that way. Do you remember his battle with Frank Parsons? he certainly would have scalped him, if he had not worn a wig.”

Discourse like this is highly entertaining to the parties interested; but they are apt, in the hurry of colloquy, to keep all the entertainment to themselves. Mrs. Nightingale, independently of her dislike to these exclusive reminiscences, found serious internal fault with the Reverend George Withers’s style of eating. The food unquestionably reached his mouth, but somehow it never got there as it should have done. His four-pronged silver fork lay idle upon the tablecloth, while his knife, doing all the duty which polite custom has thrown upon its silver associate, passed to and from his mouth to his plate with fearful impetuosity. “I have one chance yet,” sighed the lady to herself; “he will cut his own tongue out in a minute—I plainly perceive that nothing else can check his garrulity.”

Still the conversation ran in the same channel—“Do you remember this?” and “Do you remember that?” ushered in every speech. At length the Reverend Mr. Withers asked the friend of his heart, whether he remembered how he served the Italian image-men?

Nightingale had forgotten it. "Oh, then I must recall it to your memory," said the divine. "There was a party of us, madam, (turning to the lady of the mansion,) at our window, when in came a man into Dean's-yard, with a set of plaster images upon a board balanced upon his head. These Italians are certainly admirable artists—such correct grouping of figures, such harmony! Let me see: there were Socrates, Mendoza, Necker, Lord Howe, Milton, a gilt lion, Count Cagliostro, Whitfield and a green parrot, all cheek-by-jowl together. The man—oh, you remember it, Jack—walked under the window, crying, 'Image, image, who'll buy my image?' when you—O you must recollect—threw a basin of water upon his board. Away floated Whitfield and the green parrot: Mendoza gave Milton a knock-down blow; the gilt lion fell tooth and nail upon Count Cagliostro; and Necker could not find ways and means to keep his place—Lord Howe was the only officer who kept the deck."—"Yes, yes, now I do remember it," exclaimed Colonel Nightingale, laughing heartily.

It would have been better if he had remained serious. The opening of his fauces set Mr. Withers's tongue afloat upon a very ticklish topic. "Why, Jack," exclaimed the relentless clergyman, "you have got a new tooth." The colonel reddened; but the ecclesiastic proceeded. "Well, that's droll enough: you certainly *had* lost a tooth; I think it was your left eye-tooth."—"Do *you* retain your wise ones?" inquired the caustic colonel. "Yes, both of them," replied the matter-of-fact divulger of secrets. "You must remember the loss of yours: it was on the left side. Frank Anderson knocked it out with a cricket-ball."

There are certain secrets which men keep even from their wives. For "twice ten tedious years" the colonel had been hugging himself in the certainty that the affair in question was confined to Chevalier Ruspini and himself. "Will you take a glass of champagne, sir?" said the master of the mansion. The movement was most dexterous. The Reverend Mr. Withers had made a

“god of his belly” too long to allow the thoughts of any ~~text~~, save his own, to cross his Bacchanalian devotion.

When the summons of “Coffee is ready” had induced the two school friends to rejoin Mrs. Nightingale in the drawing-room, all former incidents had been pretty well exhausted, and they now proceeded to discuss “things as they are.” But in this species of duet they by no means chimed harmoniously together. Withers thought Scoresby and its concerns were the concerns of all mankind; and Nightingale could not imagine that any body upon earth had anything to think of save Rossini and his prima donna of a wife, Lindley’s violoncello, Garcia in Agorante, and Catalani in *Il Fanatico per la Musica*. “I have news to tell you,” said the country parson to the frequenter of the Italian Opera, “which I am sure you will be glad to hear.”—“Indeed, what is it?”—“My black sow has produced me seven of as pretty pigs as ever you saw in your life. Then I’ve another thing to tell you: I enlarged my pig-sty seven feet four inches; four inches? I really think it was five: yes, it certainly was five. This caused the building to project a little, and but a little, upon the footpath that leads to the back way, up town, from the Red Lion to Mrs. Marshall’s meadow. Well, now, what do you think Tom Austin did? He told Richard Holloway that I had been guilty of a trespass: whereupon Holloway, by advice of Skinner, his attorney, pulled down four planks of the new part of the pig-sty, and let the whole litter out into the village! Little Johnny Mears caught one of them—it was the black and white one—and Smithers, the baker, contrived to get hold of five more; but I have never set eyes upon the seventh from that day to this! The poor black sow took on sadly. Dick Holloway ought to be ashamed of himself. He is a fellow of very loose habits, and never sets out his tithes as he should do. But what can you expect from a Presbyterian?”

“This bald unjointed chat” made Colonel Nightingale fidget up and down like the right elbow of Mr. Lindley, pending the agony of his violoncello accom-

paniment to the "Batti Batti" of the now forgotten Mozart. The colonel had hitherto, with marvellous patience, from complaisance to his guest, forborne to mount his own hobby : finding, however, that the latter was in no hurry to dismount, he resolved, *coule qui coule*, to vault into his own proper saddle.

The following dialogue forthwith ensued. I copy it verbatim, as a model of school friendship standing firm, in its community of tastes, amid the wreck of thirty years and upwards. "I am, I own, extremely partial to Rossini's Ricciardo e Zoraide ; Garcia in Agorante excels himself : the critics object to his excess of ornament ; but I own this has always appeared to me to be his chief merit."—"When the black sow litters again, I shall keep a sharp look-out upon Master Holloway ; and if he pulls down any more planks from my pig-sty, I mean to put him into the Spiritual Court."—"Catalani's spiritual concerts are not particularly well attended, and I am not sorry for it : Bochsa has started his oratorios with all the talent in town, and therefore ought to be encouraged. By-the-bye, Madame Vestris is a woman of most versatile talent. Her mock Don Giovanni is admirable : not that I approve of any mockery of the Italian Opera ; profaneness cannot be too steadily discouraged. But it is not a little surprising, that a woman who can act that sprightly comic extravaganza should be able to depict the jealous and indignant Princess Zoraide."—"We have a club of clergymen who meet once a month at Kettering to shake hands and exchange sermons : last Friday month I gave one of mine to Doctor Pringle, whose grandfather was chaplain to the English factory at Lisbon, and received one of his in exchange. I intended to look it over on Sunday morning before church, but"—"How extremely well Madame Vestris, Camporese, and Garcia, execute that trio in the first act 'Sara l'alma delusa schernita : ' when Madame Vestris comes in with her 'O l'indegno qui dove perir,' I declare she stands her ground most womanfully : the fact is, that the sweetness of Italian music"—"But Hannah and I were busy hunting the black sow out of the cu-

cumber beds : we were so busy, crying, 'Hey tig ! tig !' that we did not hear the bell toll : so up I walked into the pulpit without ever once looking at the sermon"— "Those orange-tawny stuff curtains are a disgrace to the Opera house."—"Well, I began reading it, and to my great surprise I found that it had been preached by Doctor Pringle's grandfather immediately after the great earthquake at Lisbon. I therefore found myself under the disagreeable necessity of thus addressing my congregation at Kettering :—"When I look around me, and behold the effects of the late horrid devastation of nature : trees torn up by the roots : houses toppling to their foundation : men and cattle ingulphed in the earth, and the whole horizon rocking like the ocean in its most tempestuous moments.' You cannot imagine the sensation I excited : the old women fanned themselves and fainted ; and the men muttered to each other, 'Dear me ! something unpleasant must have occurred since we entered the church !'—I never preached with so much effect either before or since."

The regular amble of the Rev. George Withers's hobby had now contrived to distance the curvature and prance of Colonel Nightingale's. The colonel pulled up, and lifting a small gold watch from his right waistcoat pocket, muttered to himself—"Ah, the wretch ! it is half-past ten, and Catalani must have sung her second cavatina.—"Where do you lodge, sir ?" said the host, coldly to his guest—"At the New Hummums."—"Indeed ! are you aware that they close their doors at a quarter past eleven ?"—"You don't say so ?"—"Yes, I do : but you may find very pretty accommodation at 'The Finish :' the street strollers and market gardeners speak of it in high terms." This hit told : the Rev. George Withers looked at his watch, and made a rapid retreat.

"Well !" cried the colonel the moment the door was closed, "so much for school friendship : did you ever see such a vulgar dog—such an idiot too—so blind to his own interest ? if he had but held his tongue two minutes, I could have given him my opinion of 'Rossini's Zelmira.' I am one opera night out of pocket by him, and that is

enough to make me detest him to my dying day. Such illiberality too—did you hear him say,—‘What can you expect from a presbyterian!’—How I hate a man who vilifies a whole tribe for the faults of an individual!—I have long thought it, and I now know it—All men who live in the country are fools.”

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XIII.

## ADVISERS.

There is a family named Partington, that has lately commenced its residence in Upper Harley Street. It consists of a father, a mother, two sons, and two daughters. The father is a sturdy, red-faced, good sort of a man, and the mother is a slender, sallow, good sort of woman. John, the elder son, is with his father in the wine and spirit line, in America Square: Charles, the younger son, is in the law: the two girls expect to be married. There is at present a great deal of *Advice* stirring about London, and the Partingtons have given and received more than their due proportion of it. It has often astonished me why so much of that commodity has been, and continues to be, given: nobody thanks you for it: indeed, nine people out of ten tell you, in pretty plain terms, to keep your advice to yourself—yet still we continue to give it. Never was benevolence more gratuitous than ours!

Hardly was old Partington well settled in Upper Harley Street, in a most commodious situation, inasmuch as it commanded a corner view of the outside of the Diorama, with a peep at the little statue of the late Duke of Kent at the top of Portland Place, when he re-

ceived a visit from his crony Mr. Chapman, of Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street, who called to give him some advice as to his recent proceedings.

Mr. Chapman commenced his harangue in one of the accustomed forms: "Now, Mr. Partington, I am sure you have too much good sense to be offended at what I am about to say:" Mr. Partington assured him, in answer, that he had a great deal too much good sense; whereupon the adviser, in reply, began to descant upon the extreme folly of Mr. Partington in quitting his city residence to sojourn in Upper Harley Street. The adviser reminded the advisee of those happy days when, Bedlam being then standing upon London Wall, they used to walk up and down Moorfields in front of the iron gates of that edifice, for half an hour before dinner, to get an appetite. A needless ceremony, but persisted in notwithstanding. Mr. Partington owned, with downcast eyes, that such had been their practice; but alleged in his defence, that nobody lived in the city at present,—“even Bedlam has deserted it,” exclaimed he, with a sigh. “True,” answered the adviser, “and if you had removed your quarters to St. George’s Fields, I should not have so much wondered; but what the deuce could draw you to Upper Harley Street? Let me now advise you as a friend: if you have not yet signed and sealed, declare off, and come back again. We have dined with you once, in the way of friendship; but, my dear Jonathan, when you could have us all to dinner in a ring-fence, within one hundred yards of the Royal Exchange, what could put it into your head to drag us four miles off, to eat your mutton in Marybone parish?” Mr. Chapman now retired, and Mr. Partington took his advice as children take physic, by canting it out of the window the moment the apothecary’s back is turned. The lease was executed that very morning, and Mr. Partington, notwithstanding a strong internal aversion to the hot chalky dusty corner of the Portland-road, became tenant of the house in Upper Harley Street for twenty-one years, from Christmas-day then last past.

Men in the spirit line are not to be advised with impunity.

Whilst this affair was transacting in the small back apartment behind the dining-room (the only one in the whole house which a married man can call his own, and even this is apt to be invaded by hats, canes, and umbrellas out of number,) advice was going on at a great rate in the front drawing-room up stairs. Mrs. Chambers was full tilt at Mrs. Partington, advising her how to manage her family. "My dear Mem, (for to this diminutive is our French Madame humbled since the Revolution)—my dear Mem," said this matronly Mentor, "only conceive that you should never have heard of Doctor Level. I've got three of my girls down under his hands, and I hope to get Julia down the moment she comes from school."—"Down! Mrs. Chambers, I don't quite understand you."—"No! only conceive how odd! By down, I mean down flat upon their backs upon three sofas. Doctor Level says it's the only way to bring up girls straight. All depends upon the spine: nerves, bile, toothache, asthma, and everything of that kind: all springs from the spine."—"Well! but, Mrs. Chambers, is not horse exercise a better thing? my girls ride in St. James's Park now and then, with their brother Charles, as a make-weight. I can assure you, several young men of very considerable property ride there; and, according to my calculation, men are more apt to fall in love on horseback than on foot."—"Horseback! only conceive how dreadful! Dr. Level won't hear of it: he says girls should be kept quiet—quite quiet: now you know Anna is short and rather thick in her figure: the poor girl burst into tears on reading that Lord Byron hated a dumpy woman: I was quite in despair about her: only conceive! no more figure than my thumb! I spoke to Dr. Level about it, and he said, 'It's no matter, she must have the *long gaiters*.'"—"Long gaiters, Mrs. Chambers? a very pretty appurtenance to a grenadier, but surely for a diminutive young lady—"—"Oh, Mem, I beg your pardon: it's the best thing in the world:



Let me advise you as a friend to try the long gaiters.\* I'll venture to say, that in six years he would make little Cressida as long as the Queen of the Sandwich Islands. How he manages it I don't know: but there are two long straps that keep down the shoulders and fasten the ankles: then he turns a sort of screw, under the sofa, which sets the straps in motion, and pulls out the lady just for all the world as if he were rolling out paste for a gooseberry pie-crust. Well, my dear Mem, would you believe it? we have already gained two inches: and Doctor Level promises me, if I keep Anna quiet quiet for three years and seven months, she may get to quite a genteel figure—Jemima and Lucy are rather better figures: I hope to have them up and about in a twelvemonth."—"Poor girls, don't they find it very dull?"—"—") and I left them this morning with 'Irving's *Four Voyages*' and Stedman's *History of the Brazils*. 'Pleasure of amusement, that's my maxim! Let me advise you as a friend to follow my example.'"

Mrs. Chambers was qualified to give all this advice from living in Lower Grosvenor Street, which gave her much more knowledge of the world (especially on a fine Sunday, that could be possessed by an inhabitant of Upper Harley Street. Mrs. Partington, for the same reason, was bound to take it in seeming thankfulness. Most fortunate was it for the two Misses Partington, that their mamma was "advised as a friend." But for those soul-revolving expressions, Mrs. Partington might have been induced to call in Doctor Level to bind her daughters' back-bones over to their good behaviour: and the two Misses Partington, in lieu of cantering under the back-wall of Marlborough House, and kicking up as much dust as a couple of countesses might, at this present writing, have been flat on their backs, in the back drawing-room in Upper Harley Street, like a couple of Patiences on a monument, smiling at a whitewashed ceiling!

The trunk of the family-tree of the Partingtons is not

\* Qs. Elongators!

the only part of that venerable fabric destined to be assailed by advice. The branches have suffered considerably by the same tempest. John Partington, the eldest son, is suspected of entertaining a *penchant* for Fanny Smith, a figurante at the Coburg Theatre. The affair has been long whispered in the family, and his Aunt Isabella has lately thought it her duty to give him a little advice.

Aunt Isabella lives in Great George Street, Westminster: a celebrated beauty in her day, but that day was not this. The private nickname of Aunt Isabella in the family is Aunt *Was-a-bella*, but this has never come to her ears, as she has money to leave. Aunt Isabella now inserts red paint into the channels of her cheeks. With such an admirable specimen of "the florid gothic" under his very nose, how could Mr. Soane have clapped a Grecian court of justice upon the right flank of Westminster Hall? "Nephew John," said Aunt Isabella, "sit down by the fire, but don't put your feet upon that hearth-rug. Is not it pretty? I bought it of Mrs. Fry, who bought it of an interesting young woman in Newgate. John, you know I have your good at heart."

John fidgeted, and looked wistfully at his hat, which he had left unluckily out of reach. Mrs. Isabella, after the above stock prelude, poured forth her cornucopia of advice; which she assured him she should not have given, if she had not been sure of his having too much good sense to feel offended at what she was about to say. She begged to hint to him, in confidence, that his goings on were no secret: she pointed to Hogarth's "Rake's Progress," a series of delicate engravings that adorned the walls of her boudoir: she then took down a volume of Bell's "British Theatre," which she opened at George Barnwell, and assured him that it was every word true: she proved to his conviction that virtue was a good thing, and vice a bad one; and concluded by intimating, that figurantes were, like tetotums, to be looked at, but not touched.

John Partington promised amendment, and, on the

day following, drove Fanny Smith in his Stanhope to Epsom races, in a white satin pelisse and a Leghorn hat with an undulating brim. In so doing, John Partington, I fear, acted too hastily. He should first have consulted his biographical dictionary, wherein he might surely have found many instances of men who had given up a young mistress, because desired so to do by an old aunt. No such case occurs to me off hand, but many are doubtless to be met with in the books.

But, of all advisers, commend me to Charles Partington, the youngest son, who, as I before mentioned, is bred to the law. To be sure, the young man has suffered advice in his time, about giving up Lord Byron and sticking to the Term Reports, but that is no reason for his inflicting it so unmercifully upon others. His last advices are scattered upon his cousin Emily Green, who was courted by Captain Taper. Charles advised her by no means to think of him, and then trotted all over London in quest of proofs. These did not extend beyond showing the lover to be a swindler, a drunkard, and a debauchee; but they seemed to answer every purpose. Emily cried; and, possessed by her adviser of all the captain's frailties in a focus, said she was now quite happy: she could never sufficiently thank her cousin Charles for the good advice he had given her: she begged he would take charge of a whole packet of love-letters, and deliver them to the captain, receiving hers in exchange. Charles snatched up the deposit, and ran across the Park to Arabella-row, Pimlico, as hard as he could lay leg to ground. He found the captain at home, and, after giving him a world of good advice with respect to paying his debts and leaving off wine and women, laid his budget of epistles upon the table. The captain, with sorrowful solemnity, gave up Emily's letters in return; and as a parting request, urged Charles Partington to deliver a final leavetaking letter to Emily. Charles (with a sagacity which hereafter must make him a Master in Chancery, at least) complied with the lover's request; and, on his return, advised Emily as a friend not to read it. Emily said she would not, but

told him he might as well leave it on the table. Charles did leave it on the table. (A Master in Chancery! phoo! he will be a Master of the Rolls!) and, in a week, the Morning Post told the world that Captain Taper and Emily Green were man and wife.

With these, and many other examples that might be cited, surely it is high time to have done with advice altogether. Why should not a certain association prefix a syllable to the commodity they aim to crush, and dub themselves the Society for the Suppression of *Advice*? Or why should not Mr. Rothschild institute a Grand Alliance Advice Company, into which every friend of every family might cast his stock of spare wisdom? This might be afterwards sold in shares. Individuals might apply at the office for advice when they wanted it, and state their respective cases with a fee of three guineas, "to advise as within." Nothing is worth having that is not paid for!

## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XIV.

### LOVE AMONG THE LAW BOOKS.

Mrs. Culpepper's "uncle, the sergeant," of whom reverential mention has been made in one of these immortal epistles, had arrived at the age of fifty-nine, heart-whole; his testamentary assets were therefore looked upon by Mrs. Culpepper as the unalienable property of her and hers. Speculations were often launched by Mr. and Mrs. Culpepper as to the quantum. "I have no doubt he will cut up well," said Culpepper to his consort. "I have my eye upon a charming villa in the Clapham-road. When your uncle, the sergeant, is tucked under a daisy quilt, we'll ruralize: it's a sweet spot, not a stone's throw from the Swan at Stockwell!"

Such were the Alnascar anticipations of Mr. Jonathan Cuipepper. But, alas! as Dr. Johnson said some forty years ago, and even then the observation was far from new, "What are the hopes of man!" Legacy-hunting, like hunting of another sort, is apt to prostrate its pursuers, and they who wait for dead men's shoes, now and then walk to the churchyard barefooted. Mr. Sergeant Nethersole grew fat and kicked: he took a house in Tavistock-square, and he launched an olive-coloured chariot with iron-gray horses.

There is, as I am confidently told, an office in Holborn, where good matches are duly registered and assorted. Straightway under the letter N appears the following entry: "Nethersole, Nicholas, sergeant-at-law, Tavistock-square, bachelor, age 59. Income, 3,500*l*. Equipage, olive-green chariot and iron-gray horses.—Temper, talents, morals—blank!"

That numerous herd of old maidens and widows that feeds upon the lean pastures of Guildford-street, Queen-square, and Alfred-place, Tottenham-court-road, was instantly in motion. Here was a jewel of the first water and magnitude to be set in the crown of Hymen, and the crowd of candidates was commensurate. The sergeant was at no loss for an evening rubber at whist, and the ratafia cakes which came in with the madeira at half-past ten, introduced certain jokes about matrimony, evidently intended as earnest of future golden rings.

The poet Gay makes his two heroines in the Beggar's Opera thus chant in duet:

A curse attends that woman's love,  
Who always would be pleasing.

And in all cases where the parties are under thirty, Polly and Lucy are unquestionably right. No young woman can retain her lovers long, if she uses them well. She who would have her adorer as faithful as a dog, must treat him like one. But when middle-aged ladies have exceeded forty, and middle-aged gentlemen have

travelled beyond fifty, the case assumes a different complexion. The softer sex is then allowed, and indeed necessitated, to throw off a little of that cruelty which is so deucedly killing at eighteen. What says the Spanish poet?

Come then, fair one, cease to shun me,  
Here let all our difference cease;  
Half that rigour had undone me,  
All that rigour gives me peace.

Accordingly it may be observed, that women make their advances as Time makes his. At twenty, when the swain approaches to pay his devoirs, they exclaim, with an air of languid indifference, "Who is he?" At thirty, with a prudent look towards the ways and means, the question is, "What is he?" At forty, much anxiety manifests itself to make the hymeneal selection, and the query changes itself into "Which is he?" But at the *ultima Thule* of fifty, the ravenous expectant prepares to spring upon any prey, and exclaims, "*Where* is he?"

Be that as it may, the numerous candidates for a seat in Sergeant Nethersole's olive green chariot gradually grew tired of the pursuit, and took wing to prey upon some newer Benedict. Two only kept the field, Frances Jennings, spinster, and Amelia Jackson, widow, both of whom hovered on the verge of forty.

"It appears to me," said Miss Jennings, to a particular friend in Bedford-place, "that Mrs. Jackson does not conduct herself with propriety: she is never out of Mr. Nethersole's house, and jangles that old harpsichord of his with her "Love among the roses," till one's head actually turns giddy."—"I will mention it to you in confidence," said Mrs. Jackson, on the same day, to another particular friend at the bazaar in Soho-square, "I don't at all approve of Miss Jennings's goings on in Tavistock-square: she actually takes her work there: I caught her in the act of screwing her pincushion to the edge of Sergeant Nethersole's mahogany table—what right has she to net him purses?"



assurance had departed to spend a fortnight with a married sister at Kingston-upon-Thames. Poor innocent! she little knew what a widow is equal to. No sooner had the sergeant departed in his olive-green chariot, drawn by a couple of post-horses, than the widow Jackson, aided by Alice Green, packed her portmanteau, sent for a hackney-coach, and bade the driver adjourn to the Golden Cross, Charing Cross.

There was one vacant seat in the Maidstone coach: the widow occupied it at twelve at noon, and between five and six o'clock in the afternoon was quietly despatching a roasted fowl at the Star Inn, with one eye fixed upon the egg-sauce, and the other upon the Assize Hall, opposite. The pretext for this step was double: the first count alleged that her beloved brother lived at Town Malling, a mere step off; and the second averred an eager desire to hear the sergeant plead.

On the evening which followed that of the widow's arrival, the sergeant happened not to have any consultation to attend; and, what is more remarkable, happened to be above the affectation of pretending that he had. He proposed a walk into the country; the lady consented. They moralised a few minutes upon the *hic jacets* in the churchyard, and thence strolled into the adjoining fields, where certain labourers had piled the wooden props of the plant that feeds, or ought to feed, the brewer's vat, in conical (quære, comical) shapes, not unlike the spire of the new church in Langham Place. The rain now began to fall; one of these sloping recipients stood invitingly open to shelter them from the storm: "*Speluncam Dido dux et Trojanus.*" Ah, those pyramidal hop-poles! The widow's brother from Town Malling was serving upon the grand jury: his sister's reputation was dear to him as his own: "he'd call him brother, or he'd call him out," and Nicholas Nethersole and Amelia Jackson were joined together in holy matrimony.

The widow Jackson, now Mrs. Nethersole, was a prudent woman, and wished, as the phrase is, to have every body's good word. It was her advice that her husband should write to his niece Mrs. Culpepper to acquaint her



with what had happened. She had, in fact, drawn up a letter for his signature, in which she tendered several satisfactory apologies for the step: namely, that it is not good for man to be alone; but chiefly that he had met with a woman possessed of every qualification to make the marriage state happy.

"Why no, my dear," answered the sergeant; "with submission to you, (a phrase prophetic of the fact,) it has been my rule through life, whenever I had done a wrong or foolish deed"—here the lady frowned—"never to own it: never to suffer judgment to go by default, and thus remain 'in mercy,' but boldly to plead a justification. Don't say a civil word to the Culpeppers about our marriage: if you do, there will be no end to their remonstrances. Leave them to find it out in the Morning Chronicle."

"This is a very awkward affair, Mrs. Culpepper," said that lady's husband, with the Morning Chronicle in his hand. "Awkward!" echoed Mrs. Culpepper, "it's abominable. A nasty fellow; he ought to be ashamed of himself. And as for his wife, she is no better than she should be."—"That may be," said the husband, "but we must give them a dinner notwithstanding."—"Dinner or no dinner," said the wife, "I'll not laugh any more at that stupid old story of his about brother Van and brother Bear"—"Then I will," resumed the husband, "for there may possibly be no issue of the marriage."

Miss Jennings, the outwitted spinster, tired two pair of horses in telling all her friends from Southampton Street, Bloomsbury, to Cornwall Terrace in the Regent's Park, how shamefully Mrs. Jackson had behaved. She then drove to the Register-office, to transfer her affections to one Mr. Samuel Smithers, another old bachelor barrister, an inseparable crony of Nethersole's, who, she opined, must now marry from lack of knowing what to do with himself. Alas! she was a day too late: he had that very morning married the vacant barmaid at Nando's.

. When the honeymoon of Mr. Sergeant Nethersole was on the wane,

— My sprite  
Popp'd through the key-hole, swift as light,

of his chambers, in order to take a survey of his library. All was once more as it should be. Ovid had quited Mr. Espinasse, Tibullus and Mr. Justice Blackstone were two, Propertius and Lord Bacon did not speak; and, as for Giles Jacob, Waller desired none of his company. The amatory poets were refitted to their upper shelf, the honeymoon was over, and love no longer nestled in the law books.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XV.

JOSHUA PINCHBECK.

You tell me, my dear Mr. Pinchbeck, that you have never yet explored the country beyond Stratford-le-Bow on the east, Hammersmith on the west, Holloway turnpike on the north, and the windmill upon Clapham Common on the south. You add, that you can now well afford to look a little about you, and you call upon the devil to fetch you, if you will take it as you have done. You conclude with intimating an intention of spending a fortnight, "somewhere or another," a hundred miles from town, and with doing me the honour of asking my advice as to the spot to be fixed upon for your rural sojourn.

Feeling as I do in my own mind a laudable impartiality upon that subject, all parts of the country being to me pretty much upon a par, let me advise you to

pack your portmanteau, and mounting a hackney-coach, to desire the driver to convey you either to the Elephant and Castle in St. George's Fields, or to the White Horse Cellar in Piccadilly, whichever the said driver pleaseth. A variety of importunate messengers, commonly called *cads*, will here have surrounded you, and will have been very urgent in their inquiries as to the coach by which you are going to quit London. If you possess the equitable feeling upon that subject which appertains to the writer of this letter, you will have told one of them to pitch your portmanteau into the first on the stand: 'wherever fate shall lead me,' as John Kemble used to say in the Stranger.

You have now, my dear Joshua Pinchbeck, alighted at the Roebuck, a decent-looking inn with a rough-cast coating, the gilt horns and hoofs of the animal which forms the sign being softened down and relieved by a pictured punch-bowl in its rear. I make no account of your landlord; gifted with a red waistcoat, and a nose of the same colour, his duty seems to be confined to smoking and gazing vacantly at the horses' heels: the real man of business is the wife.

The room into which you are shown has a faded and heel-worn Turkey-carpet in its centre; its extremities consist of plain deal boards. Over the sideboard is a sampler worked by the landlady's mother, subscribed "Fear the Lord. Jane Mills: 4 July, 1764." Your dinner being ordered, viz. mutton-chops, potatoes, and French beans, you make a tour of the rooms to survey the portraits that adorn its walls. These consist of the Marquess of Granby in cracked glass; a man in a scarlet hunting-frock, flying over a five-barred gate, with seventeen hounds and a fox sweeping up the background; Sky-scraper, belonging to his Grace of Queensberry, held by the bridle by a groom in a jockey-cap; his late Majesty, in the third position, engraved from a full-length portrait by Gainsborough; Queen Charlotte with a high toupee, from ditto; and Harry Bunbury's Country Club. There is also a map of the county, printed in the year 1779, suspended over the fire-place,

rather yellow from age, and not hanging particularly straight.

After satisfying yourself with these curiosities, you look at your watch ; and, finding that it wants an hour and a half to dinner-time, you determine to take a survey of the town. Standing on the threshold of the Roebuck, you cast your eyes to the left, and behold one of the projecting parts of the Town Hall, in St. Peter's Street. You then look toward the right, and you see the dwarf wall of the churchyard in St. Faith's Street. In the mean time, crockery-ware, intermixed with hay, adorns the pavement of the market-place in front ; a grunting hog, with a rope tied to his left leg, is driven with difficulty past your footpath ; and the barber in his white apron, and the butcher in his blue one, stand at their respective doors.

At this period, my dear Joshua, you are seized with a fit of moralizing. You say to yourself, "Alas ! among all these busy crowds, what individual here cares a button for me ? Is there a man, woman, or child among them, who would give a sixpenny piece to prevent my tumbling down in an apoplectic fit ?" In answer to this inquiry, I have only to say, in the words of Dr. Johnson to James Boswell, "My dear sir, clear your mind of cant." Only reflect, upon a moderate calculation, what a number of respectable hardware-men like yourself, my dear Joshua, quit London every September in quest of the coy goddess Hygeia. If every man, woman, and child, in every country town, were to care for every such civic emigrant, at the rate of sixpence a head, pray consider what sum it would amount to at the year's end. My dear sir, they could not afford it : their means are too circumscribed. Besides, Joshua, have the goodness to reflect how many sixpenny-pieces *you* care for *them*. Plain-dealing is a jewel. Do not expect the reciprocity to be all on one side.

Passing the hatter's shop, where all the articles are ticketed with their respective prices, you now passed over a pretty smart new bridge, and had your coat well dusted by steering under the wake of a corn-mill. The

blacksmith's forge shone bright on the opposite side of the way, and the proprietor had the hind-leg of a cart-horse in his leather-coated lap. The smart white house, with a polished door-plate, could only appertain to George Moss, attorney-at-law. The next range of old brick tenements consisted of St. Leonard's Alm-houses, founded in 1628 by Gregory Robinson, citizen and usurer; his snubnosed bust adorning the centre.

This holy foundation being passed, I see you enter the churchyard. The south door of the church is, as a matter of course, adorned on either side by a stone cherub, hunching up the small remnant of his shoulders, with a face expressive of pain; and no wonder, Joshua, pressed as he is with *peine fort et dure*, arising from a stone tablet on his chest, and the weight of the whole building on his back. You preferred not giving the sexton a shilling for looking at the interior of the edifice, and, therefore, strolled among the tombstones in the churchyard.

The first monumental inscription which you here encountered, was "Affliction sore long time I bore;" the second was, "Weep not for me, my parents dear," upon a wooden tombstone, (why not as well as a glass ink-horn? much overgrown with nettles; the third was not legible, being appurtenant to a defunct mayor, enriched by smuggling, and consequently hemmed in by iron palisades from vulgar inspection. You now sat down, Joshua, upon the aforesaid dwarf wall which girded the cemetery, and you forthwith opened an additional vein of moralizing. You pondered, in good set sentiments, upon the frail tenure under which life is held; and you asked yourself of what use is the ceaseless toil which men undergo in the acquisition of wealth, when, sooner or later, death must level all in the dust.

It grieves me much, Joshua, to check such fine feelings by mere computation; but do it I must. Your mathematician is a sore enemy to your moralizer: he is to him what the housemaid's broom is to the web of Arachne. If death were *not* common to all men, or, in other words, if all men who were ever born were

permitted to continue to live, I have ascertained, Mr. Pinchbeck, by an arithmetical calculation, that long before the close of the year 1824, this whole globe would be peopled by natives as thickly stowed as the mob at the ensuing Brentford election. How such a mass of population is to be fed, clothed, and lodged, I leave it to Jeremy Bentham to ascertain. Until that philosopher has surmounted that difficulty, I am perfectly well satisfied to leave things as they are, and to let the dead make way for the living. Not that you and I, Joshua, mean to take our departure quite so early as the rest of mankind: no, there are two exceptions in our favour: I will allow you to reach the age of old Parr, 152: for myself, I mean to be considerably above par; my precedent is Henry Jenkins, who attained 169,—that's my span.

I heartily wish, Joshua, that the modern world produced one hundredth part of the number of kind fathers, indulgent husbands, virtuous wives, and dutiful children, that one meets with in a churchyard. One's virtues have a strange knack of lying perdue till the sexton calls them forth. We are absolutely like so many potatoes, the best part of us is underground. After pondering for half an hour upon these monuments of departed excellence, I will now take you back toward the Roebuck with gilt hoofs and horns, in quest of your mutton chop and French beans. Upon casting, however, a "lingering look behind," at the church clock, (over which, by the way, you found the pole of the weathercock bent by time into the attitude of the Tower at Pisa,) you ascertained that it wanted half an hour to dinner-time. You, therefore, on re-arriving at the mill-dam, took a letter from your coat pocket, and tore it into divers little boats, which you set afloat on the east side of the bridge, and then stept across to see them make their re-appearance on the west. Some few of them arrived safe under the mill, but the majority were engulfed in the black, bubbling, and remorseless eddy. This pastime is much in vogue among regimental lieutenants in country quarters.

Whilst at dinner, Joshua, you asked the names of the two families who represented the borough, and found that one of them was in the Tory or blue interest, and the other in the Whig or yellow. The blues and the yellows you found were much at loggerheads about three years ago, when the town stood a contested election; but, for this twelvemonth past, you ascertained that both those colours dwelt in contiguous harmony, as they are wont to do on the fly-leaf of the Edinburgh Review. The landlord had small beer, but could not venture to recommend it: his mild ale was alleged to be remarkably good.

Dinner despatched, your pint of port swallowed, and the devil's tattoo duly drummed by your left foot under the table, you began to cast your eyes about you in quest of amusement. Again you perused the sampler of Jane Mills, (the landlady's mother who feared the Lord on the 4th of July, 1764,) the Marquess of Granby in cracked glass, the tally-ho man in scarlet flying over a five-barred gate, his Grace of Queensberry's Sky-scraper, his late Majesty in the third position, her late Majesty in a high toupee, and Harry Bunbury's Country Club.

You now alighted upon an old European Magazine, for the year 1786, crammed into a corner cupboard, wherein you found that, unmoved at the interference of the King of Prussia, and the complaints of the Stadtholder, the states of Holland and West Friezeland had declared that they did not find, either in the letters from Berlin, or in the Prince of Orange's manifesto, any argument that could in the least incline them to rescind the resolution complained of: which resolution they alleged themselves determined to put in force. This intelligence might have been highly palatable at the time, but politics may be kept too long in bottle. You accordingly skipped the article, and alighted upon an Ode to Spring, commencing "Come, Fancy, Nature's pleasing child." This was tost aside to make way for "Leaves collected from the Piozzian wreath," and the leaves

shortly withered to usher in a critique upon the "Comedy of the Heiress."

Flattening your nose against the window-pane, upon which you had previously deciphered "George Frost dined here to his cost, 4th April, 1819."—"What's that to us, you booby?"—and "How I love Arabella Clark!"—your eyes next encountered a huge play-bill skewered upon the back of a dead sheep pendent at the opposite butcher's shop, with red-ink capitals, denoting the performance on that very evening of "Macbeth, or the Scottish Murderer," with "The Farmer, or Jemmy Jumps in Jeopardy." You leaped, mast high, at the intelligence, and found the usual complement of six people in the boxes, and twenty-six in the pit. Mr. Truncheon, who performed Macbeth, and Mr. Gag, who personated the staymaker, appeared to you to be so very superior to Kemble and Edwin, in these parts, that you determined to write to Elliston to engage the one, and to Charles Kemble to snap up the other; it being your equitable intention to scatter your stars impartially over the two hemispheres. If your two letters be not already despatched, I entreat you, Mr. Joshua Pinchbeck, to pause ere you commit them to the box at the grocer's bow-window, whereon the words "General post" are imprinted. Messieurs Truncheon and Gag are very great men where they are, (many men are very great men in their own county,) but, transplanted to the metropolis, I will wager a golden-sovereign against one of those shining brass curtain-pins which I have observed to decorate the exterior of the brown-paper parcels in your shop-window in Monument-yard, that, in the shifting of a scene, Mr. Truncheon will sink down from Macbeth to Donalbain, and Mr. Gag will exchange Jemmy Jumps in the Farmer for Dubbs in the Wags of Windsor.

On returning to the Roebuck to sleep, the chambermaid (contracted by the waiter to chammaid) has made her appearance with your bed-candle. You have found her to possess one of those faces which Hogarth loved to paint, pert, pale, pugnacious: free from all Salvator



Rosa-traits of sublimity : still it was feminine ; and if you had met it on the plains which trench upon Cape Coast Castle, where white women are scarce, you possibly might have revered it.

On entering your bed, you kept as quiet upon your back as the knight in Westminster Abbey who reposes upon a marble mattress, not a hundred miles from Poets' Corner : for one false move would have proved your ruin : the upper sheet would have burst its cerements, and for the whole of the ensuing night nothing but a rough blanket would have been left your bed to brag of.

Your uneasy slumber was broken by a rattle at your chamber-door, at half-past four, and a shrill exclamation of "Coach is ready, sir," intended for the man who sleeps in No. 6. At five o'clock you were again aroused by a heavy *clump*, and another shrill cry of "Your boots, sir," meant for the Birmingham rider, who reposes in No. 8 ; and at a quarter past six, a fat chirping sparrow gave you a twit, twit, twit, that kept you awake until it was time to arise. I know that sparrow of old. When absent from London, he never gives me a moment's quiet : he haunts me, when in quest of a mouthful of country air, as regularly, every morning at five, as the old woman in a box did him who was in quest of the talisman of Oromanes.

By the time of despatching your breakfast on the ensuing morning, Joshua, I know very well, though you may be rather shy of owning it, that you began to be heartily sick of your rural scheme, insomuch so, that taking advantage of the return coach from London, you were in seven hours and a half re-deposited with your portmanteau at the Elephant and Castle : a *da capo* most devoutly to be wished by ninety-nine traders out of a hundred.

Here then, Joshua, I find you, notwithstanding all the inducements to emigrate which the absence of stair-carpets and the closing of your front windows in Guildford-street (your wife's doing) can hold forth ; and here you will probably remain fashionably *incog.* ; taking your exercise in the dusk up and down the interior steps

of "London's column." I am aware that your wife is on a visit to her father at Hammersmith; and you tell me that you neither like your wife's father nor Hammersmith. Herein, Joshua, you are far from singular. Show me any man who likes either his wife's father or Hammersmith, and I will show you a tortoise-shell tom-cat!

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XVI.

## MEETING THE SAME PEOPLE.

Colonel Nightingale sat in deep meditation in his drawing-room in Albemarle-street, pondering over the *Morning Chronicle*. "And so it seems," said his lady, who at the same time perused the *Morning Post*, "that the annual expense of the Opera amounts to between sixty and eighty thousand pounds." "And dog-cheap too," answered the colonel. "I should not be surprised," said the lady, "if the Opera were not to open this season." "Impossible!" exclaimed the colonel with an involuntary shudder. "Sad news from St. Petersburg!" said the lady, still perusing the *Morning Post*. "Very sad," answered the colonel, still intent upon the *Morning Chronicle*. "The Neva has risen forty feet," said the lady. "And opera-boxes forty pounds," said the colonel. "The loss of tallow is incalculable," said the lady. "The central chandelier is lighted by gas," said the colonel. "And what a loss of lives!" ejaculated the lady. "Poor Naldi!" sighed the colonel; "*he* lost *his* life by poking over a stew-pan." "It seems, the emperor has been most humanely attentive

to the sufferers." "Yes, but where will he get such another Leporello?"

This sentimental colloquy was interrupted by the entrance of a servant, who presented to Mrs. Nightingale, upon a silver waiter, with his thumb cautiously wound up in a napkin, the following document:—

"Mr. and Mrs. Wendover present their compliments to Colonel and Mrs. Nightingale, and request the honour of their company to dinner on Thursday the 13th instant, at six o'clock.

"Russell Square, Monday, 3d January."

"What! at it again!" exclaimed Colonel Nightingale. "Well! those Wendovers are the most persevering people I ever encountered: they never will let us alone: they must have a comfortable notion of their own attractions, to suppose that we can find any delight in bowling all the way from Albemarle-street to Russell-square. I hate Russell-square, with its erect bronze Duke of Bedford, looking up towards Bloomsbury-square after his recumbent bronzed friend Fox. Poor Charles! only think of making him, at his time of life, sit down on a white marble sofa bareheaded in the open air! The last time I saw him he had a lap full of snow."

"My dear," said Mrs. Nightingale, "the Wendovers are not responsible for what happened to be cast in metal ten years before they entered the square. You know I had no horses at Cheltenham, and Mrs. Wendover's carriage was always at my disposal."

"Ay, there it is," answered her helpmate: "Mrs. Wendover makes a good thing of that carriage: she is always lying in wait, seeking what people of fashion she may devour: no sooner is one's wife caught without one's horses, than in trots Mrs. Wendover with her two long-legged seducers. To my certain knowledge she has already currycombed herself into three houses in Berkeley-square, and now she is trotting up Albemarle-street: somebody ought to put a check-string on such doings—it's a shame thus to prey on the necessities of the great! but I have a still deeper-rooted objection to dining with the Wendo-

vers. One always meets the same people there : I hate the same people : company is like fish—good for nothing after the first day.”

Mrs. Nightingale was a prudent wife. Like the chain-pier at Brighton, she made it a rule never to oppose a storm. Look at the consequence : that edifice has stood firm during the late gales, where Waterloo Bridge would have gone by the board ; and Mrs. Nightingale, on the day which followed the above-recited colloquy, was authorised to write an answer to Mrs. Wendover, undertaking to accept the invitation, in a phraseology similar to that in which it was couched, with the omission of the “compliments,” those articles, at that season of the year, being confined to watchmen and parish-beadles in quest of half-crowns.

The Wendover card stood palpable in the chimney-rack, and it was, rather unluckily, printed in huge bulbous characters, insomuch that it caught the colonel's eye every morning at breakfast. . “I heartily wish,” said the lord of the mansion, one morning, whilst in the act of spreading butter on a parallelogram of dried toast, “that among all these new joint-stock companies, some patriotic banker or disinterested solicitor would establish a New Grand Dining-out Company, with a capital of a few millions to purchase a gigantic lottery-wheel.”—“A gigantic lottery-wheel, my dear ! for heaven's sake, for what purpose ?”—“Why, to shake London dinner-company in, that one might avoid the chance of meeting the same people twice. I am confident it would answer. I should have no objection to be ‘standing-council’ to the concern. I flatter myself I could give them some profitable hints.”—“I doubt whether it *would* always answer,” said Mrs. Nightingale ; “shuffle them as you will, dinner-people, like hands at whist, sometimes come together again in a most unaccountable way. You observed last night, at Lady Lumley's, I held the knave, ten, and four of diamonds. Before the next deal, Sir Samuel Spadille shuffled the cards extremely well, and afterwards stuck them in, heads and feet, in a complete higglety-piggledy style ; notwithstanding which, I held

‘the very same knave, ten, and four, at the very next round.’—“That I don’t object to,” resumed the husband; that’s all chance. I myself entered the pit of the opera three successive nights, and found Lindley screwing the same peg of his violoncello. But *inviting* one to meet the same people is *malice prepense*.”—“They may now and then have casually dropped in,” said the lady.—“Phu!” ejaculated the colonel, “nobody now-a-days drops casually into a gentleman’s dining-room, unless it be a stray sweep that has mistaken his chimney.”

On the appointed day, Colonel and Mrs. Nightingale set off from Albemarle Street towards Russell Square. “It’s a long way for the same pair,” said the colonel; “would it not be better to change horses in Tottenham Court Road? It’s all very well”—a phrase uniformly adopted by the colonel when he meant that any event was in every particular decidedly bad—“it’s all very well; but another time you won’t catch me dining out so far north: these kind of expeditions ought to be left to Captain Parry.”—“True,” answered his helpmate, endeavouring to combat his sentiments by burlesquing them; “I confess they do live a lamentable long way north. I should not be surprised if we met a parcel of Esquimaux, and were obliged to touch noses.”—“I hope we shall,” said the colonel; “*that*, at all events will not be meeting the same people. Your mention of the Esquimaux,” said the husband, as the carriage crossed Bedford Square, “reminds me of an anecdote of the late Lord Erskine. A lady was listening to that nobleman’s account of the people at the North Pole, and when he had mentioned that the natives clothe themselves in the skins of the seals and eat their flesh—‘What, live upon the *seals*?’ exclaimed the lady, with a look of horror. ‘Yes, madam,’ answered Lord Erskine, ‘and devilish good living too, if one could but keep them.’”

The colonel’s monolaugh at his own facetiousness had barely subsided, when the carriage stopped at a mansion in Russell Square. “Really I don’t think this is the house,” said Mrs. Nightingale, as they entered the drawing-room; “the Wendovers’ drawing-room furni-

ture is blue.”—“They may have changed it to crimson,” said the colonel; it would be too much always to meet the same furniture with the same people.”

Nobody happened to be in the room except a pretty dark-eyed little girl, of about eight years of age, who sat upon the sofa in a diagonal position, with her legs coiled under her, reading *Sandford and Merton*. “Am I right, my dear,” said Mrs. Nightingale, addressing the child; “what is your name?”—“Caroline, ma’am.”—“And what besides?”—“Stanfield.”—“Is this your papa’s house?”—“Yes.”—“There,” cried the lady, turning to her husband, “I thought we were wrong.” At this moment Mrs. Stanfield entered the room. Suitable apologies were made and accepted; and Mrs. Stanfield informed the intruders that the Wendovers lived next door; adding, with a smile, “They are strangers to us; but we have both dinner-parties to-day, and I suppose our servants took it for granted that you were some of our guests.”

“Ah, my dear Julia,” said the mortified colonel, as they ascended the real genuine unadulterated staircase of Mr. and Mrs. Wendover, “what an opening have I let slip of passing a pleasant evening! one never thinks of things until it is too late. What a beautiful opportunity have I suffered to evaporate!”—“An opportunity for what?” inquired the anxious Mrs. Nightingale.—“For what!” ejaculated the colonel: “oh, heavens! I might have said to Mrs. Stanfield, ‘Let Mrs. Nightingale and myself stay where we are: and do you, madam, order the first married couple that drives up, to take our place at the Wendover dinner-table. You don’t visit in the same circles; they will thus, as well as we, be able to escape the calamity of meeting the same people, and you will make two virtuous couples happy.’”

## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XVII.

## DARKNESS OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

Sir Mark Medium dined on Wednesday last with Colonel and Mrs. Nightingale in Albemarle-street. Having been born in the year 1775, he could not, with all his manœuvring, escape being fifty years of age in the present year. In fact, the decimals have sadly plagued him ever since the year 1806, when he attained the age of thirty. During the short Whig administration of that period he would still persist in calling himself twenty-seven. In the year 1815, he was not half so much piqued by the escape of Napoleon Bonaparte from the island of Elba as by the tormenting reflection that, however much he might persist in calling himself thirty-six, the fact was that he was forty ; and not all the blessings of railways, patent milk-pails, floating-chapels, pearl fisheries, and soap-sud companies, which emanate from the present year 1825, can compensate Sir Mark Medium for the tyranny of Time in making him half a century old. All that a middle-aged gentleman can do, however, in the way of fighting with the wielder of the scythe and hour-glass, Sir Mark does.

I have often heard people talk of the darkness of the middle ages. Mr. Hallam has written a book upon the subject ; but to those who have no time for reading, it may be curious to see it exemplified by living instances. The fact is, that middle-aged people have a strong propensity to forget everything that happened in their youth. The censorious world is so apt to draw its own chronological conclusions, that folks, who are neither young nor old, are uniformly seized with a sable oblivion of all that occurred above twenty years back ; and this I call the darkness of the middle ages.

Sir Mark Medium is by no means exempt from the

general calamity. He has read about Ranelagh, but has not the most distant recollection of the existence of the rotundo. Miss Farren left the stage long before his time; John Wesley had ceased to preach at least ten years before he was born. He has often heard his father talk of Dodd the player, and the mutiny of the Nore happened when he was a very little boy.

Now and then, however, a ray of light shoots through the vast abyss. Some co-middle aged man starts up, who, having given up youth as a bad job, manfully sinks into a bald head, allows his ungirdled intestines to wander where fancy leads them, and takes to partridge-brown shorts, white stockings, half gaiters, and a spencer. When such a man comes forward, he makes as great a merit of remembering as the opposite stamp of middle-aged gentlemen do of forgetting. Mr. Mullens is a man of this sort, and was invited on Wednesday to meet Sir Mark Medium at Colonel Nightingale's. "Sir Mark will be delighted to meet him," said the lady of the mansion;—"they were fellow collegians at Pembroke."

Before the cloth was removed, Sir Mark was questioned as to his knowledge of the celebrated Lord Mansfield; he shook his head—he remembered Lord Kenyon faintly, but as for Lord Mansfield, he was gone long before his time; whereupon in darted Mullens the meteor, and the middle ages were a blaze of light. "Not remember Lord Mansfield!" said the meteor. "My dear Medium, what *are* you talking about!—Don't you remember when you and I stood at the gate of Highgate chapel one Sunday morning immediately after the service! There are two gates to the churchyard; it was that nearest to London: you had on a new pair of jockey boots, one of which had nearly annihilated your tendon Achilles; and as his lordship stepped into his carriage, you cast a glance at his square-toed shoe and mottled worsted stocking; and then eyeing the tight and polished leather that decorated your own matchless limb, you exclaimed, "A pretty fellow for a lord chief justice!"

All this was wormwood in the teeth of the tenebrose Visigoth of the middle ages, but prudence forbade a



reply. A little man in black, famous for peeling an orange, and deluging it with white wine and sugar, now took advantage of a momentary silence to mention Bowden's *Life of John Kemble*; and to express his regret, that, being a member of a book club, he knew nothing of the matter till it came to his turn. "You have seen John Kemble of course?" said the little orange-peeler, turning to Sir Mark Medium. "Only in his decline," said he of the tight waist. "I don't know what you call his decline," exclaimed the inexorable Mullins; but I perfectly remember when you and I went to see him in  *Rover*, in his own alteration of Mrs. Behn's play of that name. He called it *Love in many Masks*;—he was dressed in blue velvet, and Jack Bannister played John Blunt, an Essex squire: it was in the year 1790: you and I came from Pembroke on purpose. At that period Kemble had a strange fancy to be a fine gentleman: he took to Charles Surface and Don Felix, of which latter personation George Colman said, it possessed too much of the Don, and too little of the Felix. Only in his *decline* indeed! why, he had not been on the London boards more than four years."

Colonel Nightingale's knocker now began to beat double-quick time. "What's all this about?" inquired Mr. Thomas Willoughby, helping himself to a glass of water as a symptom of retreat upwards. "Nothing but my wife's evening visitors," answered the colonel. "I flatter myself that there is not a more industrious knocker than mine in the whole parish of St. James's. It is never idle from nine to twelve o'clock. At first it struck rather discordantly upon my ear, (which by the way is become more nice since my acquaintance with Madame Pasta.) But I have now so well drilled the footmen of all my acquaintance, (or, more properly speaking, my wife's,) that they keep excellent time with the grand piano above. We tried them last night with *Der Freischütz*; and I can assure you, their rat tat-a-tat, tat-a-tat, chimed in with "hark, follow hark," quite harmoniously."

Mr. Willoughby now passed through the parlour door.

way into the hall, and took advantage of a momentary cessation of silk rustling to skip up stairs, cautiously avoiding contact with the balustres, that he might not damage the pile of shawls that overhung them. "I'll tell you a good story about Willoughby," said Sir Mark Medium, thinking it highly expedient that somebody besides himself should be made ridiculous. "Willoughby's wife is evangelic; they have been married seven years, and have no family. Women, in that case, always take to old china, geology, charity, poodle dogs, or evangelism. Mrs. Willoughby has selected the last. Willoughby would not take to the collar for a long time; but wives are always victorious in the end. Tom straightway mended his manners: cautiously abstained from rapping out an oath; did not go to one of Catalani's concerts; ('Poor fellow!' ejaculated Colonel Nightingale,) and deposed Swift's Tale of a Tub from his book-shelf, that Cunningham's Velvet Cushion might reign in its stead. Well, affairs were in this state, when, happening to be walking very disconsolately in the Green Park, with his hands in his breeches pockets, and whistling, 'I sigh and lament me in vain!' he popped upon Jack Hammersley—by no means one of 'the Elect'—so far from it, quite the *re-verse*, as Mat the Fulham coachman expresses himself. Well, Hammersley seizes him by the elbow, and exclaims, 'Damme, Tom, how d'ye do?' Upon which, Tom Willoughby, quite forgetting the new part he had to play, answered, 'Thank ye—that's comfortable—that's the first oath I've heard these six months.'

What happened up stairs—how our semi-centenarian tried it on at the piano, and found that it would not fit; and how, disdaining to join the old people at whist, he hung suspended in the door-way of communication between the two drawing-rooms, must be the subject of a future epistle.

## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XVIII.

## MEN OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

My last letter left Sir Mark Medium rising from the dinner-table of Colonel Nightingale, in Albemarle Street, ready to adjourn to coffee, and intending to do execution upon the hearts of the numerous young ladies, of whose advent the street-door knocker had recently given audible notice. Hardly had our bonom-piercer reached the half landing-place, when the sound of the pianoforte struck upon his ears. "Ah! luckless Damocles!" ejaculated to himself the compassionate baronet, "little dreamest thou of him who is upon the stairs! The arrow of Cupid is suspended over thy heart by a single thread. Open the door, and thou diest! Let me consider—shall I be merciful to thee, and merely take the bass of 'When shall we three meet again?' Shall I slightly wound thee by taking a second in the 'Manly heart?' Shall I inveigle thy youthful affections beyond hopes of extrication by 'Believe me if all those endearing young charms?' or shall I drop a mildew upon thy opening expectations by 'I have sworn to love no more!'" Thus pondering between mercy and justice (like Richardson doubting whether he should slay Lovelace or let him live to repent—vide Mrs. Barbauld's Letters) Sir Mark Medium reached the first floor of Colonel Nightingale's dwelling.

Every landing-place of every first floor of every mansion in decent repute, amid the votaries of ton, from York Gate, Regent's Park, down to Welbeck Street, ("and really, gentlemen, I can go no lower,") exhibits to the evening visitor, as he swerves slightly to his right, two white painted doors, that on his right conducting him to music and juvenility in the back draw-

ing-room, and that on his left to cards and the middle ages, mixed with antiquity, in the front drawing-room. The baronet was too intent on slaughter to consider what he was about. He was, therefore, in the impious 'Tartarus of clubs, odd tricks, and rubbers, before he knew where he was. "What, one of *us* at last?" exclaimed old Mrs. Griffiths; "come, cut in, you're just in time. Well, now, Sir Mark, that's comfortable, that's rational; leave the young ones to amuse themselves, and let us amuse ourselves. Only conceive, two card-tables are all we can master. Ah! you and I remember the time when evening parties were something like."—"Something like what, madam? Everything is like something."—"I mean something like what they should be. When Mrs. Fitzherbert lived in Pall Mall—let me see—about the year '95—ay, that was the time—you and I might count twenty card-tables in the two rooms. Young women then amused themselves rationally, by sitting at the edge of the table and seeing their mammas deal; but now-a-days they whisk to the pianoforte, or set up a quadrille, and put the whole house into such a see-saw, that it's actually enough to make us old ones as giddy as themselves."

"Heavens! what a spiteful old hag!" muttered Sir Mark to himself, as with a polite bow and a smile he declined the proffered nine of diamonds, and walked into the land of harmony. Miss Boodle had just been prevailed upon to draw off her gloves. Her father was rich enough to afford Garcia; nobody, therefore, could doubt her abilities. Much music was, in due course, turned over before the proper article could be pitched upon. She should be very happy, she was sure, to sing anything—anything in the world: that was to say, anything not English: *Il maestro* would never forgive her if he heard her singing English. "And hear of it he undoubtedly would, my dear," said the wife of the man who was rich enough to afford Garcia. "Don't you remember, Harriet, when Sir Mark Medium prevailed upon you to take a part in 'Fair Aurora?' your mouth did tolerably well, considering the language it had to

articulate, till you came to 'Think what anguish!' when that unhappy final syllable *guish* gave your mouth such a wrench, that it required six Roman love-songs and two Venetian canzonettes to put it straight again."

"I remember it well, madam," said Sir Mark Medium. "Unfortunately, when Artaxerxes was written, our poetry went along bumping like Brentford pavement. The author of the Irish Melodies has since Macadamized our metre in a very masterly manner. He has picked out the big consonants and broken the five vowels into little bits, so that the voice now runs over them like a Stanhope down Portland-place. If Miss Boodle could but be prevailed upon to try 'Go where glory waits thee,' I shall be too happy to ——" "O no," interrupted the daughter of the man who was rich enough to afford Garcia, "if the Signor were to catch me at English a second time, I am sure he never would enter the house again." Many music-books were again tumbled over, until "Di piacer" was fixed upon, and Miss Boodle squared her elbows for action.

"Enough," said Sir Mark to himself, when the formal and frigid daughter of him who was rich enough to afford Garcia had concluded her bravura, "I suspected it before she began. Whenever I see a girl with freckles and flaxen eye-lashes attempt to do anything, I know beforehand that it won't do?"

The daughter of the man who was rich enough to afford Garcia now descended from her red-morocco throne, and straightway a dark hollow-chested daughter of Euterpe seized the reigns of empire. Any want of strength or spirit which might have been exhibited by her predecessor was now amply compensated by the muscular organ of Miss Simms. "Home, sweet home," was dwelt upon most emphatically. "I never knew the value of domestic felicity," said Mrs. Lumm, "until I heard that song. It is always sure to make me wish myself back in Bruton-street, or indeed anywhere but where I am when I hear it."

"This," said Medium, "is enough to try a man's for-

itude.” “It should have done that ten years ago,” answered the tormentor. “At present it must try your *fifty*-tude. Come, let you and I show them what music is;” so saying, off the two semi-centenarians started with a duet. I cannot speak highly of either of their voices. Sir Mark, however, helped out his tenor by wrinkling his forehead, and Mullens strengthened his bass by making a double chin. The duet ran as follows:—

With a friend and a wife,  
Those blessings of life,  
What on earth can our envied condition amend?  
Should sweet offspring be ours,  
Grant this, O ye powers!  
Be the girls like my wife, and the boys like my friend.

“And the boys like your what, sir?” asked old Mrs. Griffiths, who had now quitted the card-room fifteen shillings the better. “Like my friend, ma’am,” answered Mullens. “Humph,” ejaculated the lady; “it will occasionally happen in the best regulated families; but it’s an odd thing to pray for.”

Colonel Nightingale, the lord of the mansion, now made his appearance from below with the few remaining Bacchanalians whom he had at length estranged from the glass-handled decanter. Straightway all was Italian, and Sir Mark Medium and his Irish Melodies were voted *hors de combat*. The baronet accordingly sauntered toward the other drawing-room; but, disdaining the imputation of whist, sat in the door-way, suspended in the manner narrated in my last epistle.

Several lions now made their appearance, whom Mrs. Nightingale, *leonum arida nutrix*, had summoned on the occasion, consisting of a Northwest voyager, a Scotch writer on the corn-laws, a physician who knew all about magnetism, a piping bull-finch, and an abolisher of negro slavery. Mrs. Lumm took this opportunity also of opening a new edition, by Mr. Roscoe, of the works of one Alexander Pope, an obscure poet of the last century, and began to entertain the company by re-

citing the Dunciad: and Mrs. Willoughby, the evangelical anti-breeder, talked of a discourse at which she had been present at the Rotundo in Blackfriars-road.

Sir Mark Medium, from his central position, was, like the Public Ledger, "open to all parties, but influenced by none?" His ears in consequence drank in the following sounds. "Double, single, and the rubber! Well, I never saw such a run since I first beheld the Great Mogul." "Who led the club?" "Batti, batti, o bel Masetto!" "I can assure you, ma'am, Rowland Hill gave us a most excellent sermon. I never knew a man with half his humour!" "Humour, madam, in a preacher?" "Yes; he set a psalm to the Irish air of 'Drops of Brandy,' saying that he did not see, for his part, why the devil should have all the good tunes."

Not a little annoyed by a Babel, of which not a single brick was his own, Sir Mark Medium now made a sullen and sudden retreat. He has lately been paying his addresses to a young woman of eighteen, tall, well shaped, and in quest of an establishment. Ghost as I am, I expect, before I am resummoned to Phlegethon, to see him united in the bonds of wedlock—the cradle-rocked Tithonus of a Guildford-street Aurora. Till then I bid them farewell.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XIX.

NEWS FROM BRIGHTON.

(In a Letter from Miss Louisa Thompson.)

Papa had a notion that we all began to look pale with raking to the Temple Gardens, the Royal Circus, and the Hackney Assembly; so nothing would suit him but

going to the sea. For my part, I hate the sea; one wave is so like another: they all come rolling till they arrive at the beach, and then they break into a huge white bush, like the late Doctor Rees's wig, and come bang upon the shore, bringing with them pebbles enough to give the *coup de grace* to ninety-nine Saint Stephens.

We have got a nice lodging in North-street, commanding a romantic view of all the passengers, inside and out, as they alight from the New Dart Safety Coach. All the beauty and fashion of Brighton pass our door. Munden went by yesterday leaning on his stick, and Incedon this morning. The latter talks of leaving us, because Mr. Munn, of the Golden Cross Inn here, would not let him amuse the Royal Catch and Glee Club by singing all the parts in "Glorious Apollo." Mr. Munn offered him either treble, second, or bass, but the veteran determined to have all or none.

If we do not all return with a stock of health, which, properly invested, shall last us for life, it will be no fault of papa's. Before it is well daylight he thumps at our chamber-doors with his stick, and calls out, "Come, girls, come, girls, nobody lies a-bed at the sea-side." No sooner are we dressed, than he walks us off up the East cliff as hard as we can trot, and in the course of our walk is sure to encounter three or four fat red-faced men of his acquaintance (all papa's acquaintance are fat and red-faced); and when the elderly worthies have arrived opposite the Snake Houses, they stand open-mouthed to catch the sea-air, for all the world as if they were singing "Come if you dare," to those horrid Roman Catholics the French, on the opposite coast, at a place they call Dip, because people go there to bathe.

By the way, the bathing here is shocking. My brother Bob tells me that he tried it last Wednesday. He took a plunge out of the machine, head first, as he usually does at the River Lea Lock in the Clapton Marshes: but it seems the sea had in the mean time given him the slip, so that he found himself hands and knees on the bare pebbles. Hardly had he time to congratulate himself that it was no worse, when back came the ocean



roaring in a terrible passion about something or other, sent him bang against the steps, mounted the machine before him without saying with your leave or by your leave, and rushed out again, carrying away with it his new nankeen Cossacks, with seventeen and sixpence in the right pocket, and the key of his portmanteau in the left. Tom has since taken the hint, and quietly sneaked into the warm-bath.

Talking of keys reminds me of locks. The locks here are shocking. When you shut your chamber-door, it opens of itself in half a minute, until you give it a good drive with your shoulder, and then it won't open again at all, out of pure spite. It is precisely the same with the drawers. When you push one side of them in, the other end comes out, like a widow's fat, under the dominion of Mrs. Thompson's (late Bailey's) stays. Well, but to return to papa. As soon as he has us up in the clouds opposite the Snake Houses, he beckons to some young donkey-monger, and bargains for the hire of a brace of Jerusalem ponies, upon which he sees Selina and me fairly mounted, and then sends us off to scour the country, that we may "earn our breakfast." Last Thursday our two beasts of burden were in an exploring humour, and as we knew they would be deaf to all remonstrances, we even let them take their own way. They accordingly took us down a romantic dell, where we met Jack Appleby, who is in the tape and pin line on Ludgate-hill, and where we found our further progress impeded by a swing-gate leading to a narrow muddy road. There was some poetry chalked upon a board affixed to a post on the left side of the gate, which Selina copied into her album. It was as follows:—

This road is not passable,  
Not even jack-ass-able :  
When this way you do travel,  
Pray bring your own gravel.

We took the hint, and by dint of pinching the left ears of our beasts, induced them to go back to the Old Steyne.

No sooner is our breakfast swallowed, with an ac-

companionment of eggs and Brobdignag shrimps, which papa makes us eat whether we will or no, merely because they grow in the sea, than we are walked off to the Chain Pier, because exercise is good for us. This is a pretty kind of a thing enough: it sticks into the ocean without seeming to have any business there, like the bowsprit of my uncle Simon's ship, the Charming Sally, which you remember pokes across the High Street, Wapping, into the garret window of Donaldson, the chandler. How old Neptune puts up with such impertinent intrusion, is his affair, not mine. But, my dear, there is one dreadful inconvenience in the Chain Pier: you must come back the way you came; so that it is impracticable to cut any vulgar people whom you may see approaching. There are, to be sure, two or three little side shops where they sell ginger-beer, into which you may bolt; but these are far too small and too few for the occasion.

Yesterday I was walking upon the pier in my new broad-brimmed straw hat, remarkably convenient for the sea-side in a high wind, as the brim at one moment quite covers your face and flaps down to your chin, and at another takes such a sudden tilt backward, that you are well nigh strangled by the ribbons that fasten it round your throat. Well, who should join us on the pier but Christopher Withers, a remarkably genteel young man, who curls his whiskers with hot irons into the shape of corkscrews. Papa has nicknamed him Kit Corkscrew; but that I don't mind. Mr. Withers is a great favourite of mine: such a man for anticipating all one's wants! Last Tuesday he bought for me, at Stefanoni's, a blue glass monkey with emerald eyes. His acquaintance here is quite among the tip-tops. He knows a Polishing lancer who wears a cap at the top of his helmet, that he may use one if he loses the other. My brother Bob, who affects the military, ventured to hint that a lancer could not be of much service in modern warfare; but Withers set him right in that particular, exclaiming, "My dear sir, you may depend upon

it that a lancor with that long instrument would poke you about, and make you very unhappy.”

This settled the controversy ; and Withers, Bob, Selina, and I, were just turning to go back along the pier, when who should I see approaching but Jack Appleby, with that horrid vulgar mother and sister of his. You might have knocked me down with a feather. We hurried into one of the little recess shops to avoid them, and stood with our noses touching the wall, fearing to look round, and half stifled with the smell of radishes and cucumbers, until we concluded that they must have passed, when on peeping abroad to see if the coast was clear, we came plump upon them. It seems the wretches had halted to regale themselves at the adjoining recess, as Jack Appleby roared out, “O ho ! been doing like us, I see ; *fantiguing* the spruce.” Was there ever such a hound ! That’s the only objection I have to Brighton ; you are sure to meet so many people you wish at Jericho. One thinks of nothing but cutting from morning to night. Bob calls it leading the life of a dragoon : I don’t see the wit. Only fancy Nancy Appleby : nankeen pelisse, cotton stockings, black shoes, green veil, and sand-coloured hair, crossed on the forehead, and fastened with a yellow brooch, looking for all the world like a lump of sucked barley-sugar ; talking of coming down by Crosweller’s coach, and being frightened as they drove through the tunnel at Reigate, and a parcel of such-like trumpery, and all in the hearing of young Withers. I cannot express how I felt.

I had flattered myself with the hope of seeing your brother Frederick here, thinking that the recent strike among the haberdashers’ apprentices, to enable them to improve their minds, would have given poor Frederick an opportunity of coming again to the York hotel, and playing billiards with the waiter. Your letter of yesterday, which I received this morning at breakfast, dissipated the flattering illusion. I was upon the point of carrying my tea to my mouth when I read the fatal paragraph : I could not help exclaiming, “My cup indeed is a bitter one :” upon which that civil, smirking,

toad-eating Mrs. Anderson said, "Is it, my love? then why not take another lump of sugar?"

Papa asked young Withers to dine with us to-day. We had some music before dinner. But only think how unlucky. You know I have two music-books, one for show, and one for use: the first consists of Beethoven, Rossini, Mozart, and all that sort of unattainable stuff; the other is for every-day use. I had put the show-book at top, but young Withers most unaccountably opened the wrong book, and to my infinite confusion pored for at least twenty minutes over "The Hours of Love," "Tom Bowling," "When you tell me your heart is another's," "Whistle, and I will come to you, my love," "God save the king," and "Won't you, Mr. Mugg."

Withers drove up in such a dashing fly! The dinner was very bad: a sprawling bit of bacon upon a tumbled bed of greens; two gigantic antediluvian fowls, bedaubed with parsley and butter, a brace of soles, that perished from original inability to flounder into the ark, and the fossil remains of a dead sirloin of beef. I had no appetite, and had just impressed our visiter with a notion of the delicacy of my stomach, when Mrs. Anderson bawled out from the bottom of the table, "Sir, you should have seen her at luncheon peg away at the prawns!" If this is not hanging matter, it is high time for Mr. Martin to bring in a bill to make it so.

You should see Kemp Town. It is built by the Rev. Mr. Kemp. They say he is a seceder: I don't know why they call him so. Papa says it is because you see the sea from his new buildings. For my part, I don't like the place. It is a terrible long way off—half way to Rottingdean; a sad drag when you want to go to Lucombe's to take out what you have won at loo. At present it is at a stand-still: a parcel of carcasses of houses, like the living skeleton, only people don't pay three shillings a-head for looking at them.

Here are those eternal Applebys coming down the street, with the addition of their horrid father in his gamboge-coloured slippers, which he walks all about

the town in. I must run to tell Mary to say we are not at home. So in haste I subscribe myself unalterably yours,

LOUISA THOMPSON.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XX.

### DIGNUM AND HIS TIMES.

The luminous and voluminous Gibbon, in his Memoirs, "hesitates, from an apprehension of ridicule, in detailing the particulars of his early love." My attachment to Charles Dignum excites not any such bashfulness. "Come along with me, young gentleman, to Drury-lane Theatre this evening," said my French and Italian tutor, "and I will show you what acting is." It was Garrick's theatre, and Dignum played Captain Sightly, in Bickerstaff's afterpiece, "The Rump."

The green curtain rose majestically to exhibit the opening scene of Bickerstaff's farce. Let the reader fancy a grocer's shop with the glass windows in the back scene, looking as towards the street; an actress named Jordan played Priscilla Tomboy, and sat upon a stool working at her needle, and singing "Hail, London, noblest mart on earth," in chorus with the shopmen. Young Cockney, the son of the head of the firm, "in love with her, but not beloved in return," was acted by a man named Dodd—not habited in Wellingtons and white ducks, like the modern mind-improving race, but dressed in brown powder, a scarlet coat, black satin shorts, blue silk stockings, and paste knee and shoe-buckles, as a shopman should be. Old Cockney was

acted by Fawcett, the father of the present acting manager of Covent-Garden Theatre; and Barnacle, the money-saving uncle, was performed by a man whose name, I think, was Suett.

The grand feature of the piece, Captain Sightly, (the feature, I may say, speaking as a copyist, "upon which the whole question hinged,") fell to the lot of Dignum. When he entered, you might have heard a pin drop. Everybody heard everybody's watch tick. Priscilla Tomboy, to avoid marrying a man she detests, determines on an elopement with the captain. She thus lyrically expresses her aversion to her friend Penelope, Young Cockney's sister,

"I'm sick when I think of your brother;  
And were there on earth ne'er another,  
He should not my mind subdue."

The phrase, "I'm sick," was well calculated to express the feelings of a high-spirited young woman sent home in a merchantman from Jamaica to Gracechurch-street for polite education; and the determination subsequently expressed to cause "Chaos to come again," by a non-continuation of the human species, in the event therein predicated, could only drop from the pen of a true poet.

I must own that I am sufficiently a "*laudator temporis acti*," to dislike the modern mode of dressing military men on the stage in overalls, boots, and spurs. It betokens a disrespect to the audience. Dignum knew better. Captain Sightly is a gentleman by profession: he is a captain in the trainbands, occasionally exercising in the Artillery-ground, at the back of Moor-place, which now forms the west side of Finsbury-square, and should therefore not hide his leg under a bushel. Dignum dressed the character in a scarlet coat, cocked hat, white kerseymere waistcoat and breeches, and blue silk stockings, and shoes, the latter twain of which habiliments showed his leg and foot to great advantage, and to the proportionate detriment of John Palmer.

Priscilla meets her lover by appointment at the eastern

corner of St. Paul's Churchyard, near the trunkmaker's, whose hammering I hope and trust does not disturb the young gentlemen in their study of the *bonas literas*, five doors lower down on the coach side of that majestic cathedral. Young Cockney comes pop upon the lovers: Miss La Blonde, a French milliner, Old Cockney, Barnacle, and Penelope, happen to drop in at the time, and a sestetto is the consequence. Let me indulge myself in an extract :

*Priscilla.* They may lock me up in prison—  
But I don't mind that a straw.

*Young C.* Her'n the fault is more than his'n.

*Penelope.* Uncle, brother, pray withdraw.

*Priscilla (to Young C.)*—If that here you longer tarry,  
You may chance away to carry  
What you will not like to bear,  
You'll well be beaten.—

*Young C.* What! you threaten?

*Priscilla.* Captain, draw your sword and swear—

*Captain S. (drawing.)* 'S blood and thunder!

*Miss La Blonde.* Stand asunder!

*Young C.* Let him touch me if he dare!

All the Captain Sightlys that I have seen, since Dignum, when they exclaim, "'S blood and thunder!" assume a look of real rage. Dignum only smiled and half drew his sword from the scabbard. He felt the situation as described by the poet to be one of peculiar delicacy: it was not for him to assassinate the son of his mistress's guardian: he was only to appear in earnest. Indeed, Young Cockney's rejoinder, "Let him touch me if he dare;" shows that he did not conceive himself to be in any very imminent peril.

I owe my introduction to our great vocalist to a happy chance. I sat next to him at an anniversary dinner of the Deaf and Dumb; Hodgson, the jocular Smithfield apothecary, sat on his other side. "Sit higher, Diggy," exclaimed the son of Galen, giving him at the same time a shove which drove him with gentle violence against the writer of this memoir. "Ah! now, my dear Mr. Daub," exclaimed our hero, (he had

seen my name written upon a card on my soup-plate,) "I really beg your pardon: 'pon my life I do—I don't know."

It was Dignum's constant custom to finish his sentences by this asseveration, thinking with the philosopher of old, that all we know is that we know nothing. I assured him that he had given me no offence, and won his heart by keeping a second plate of giblet-soup in reserve for him, until he should have devoured his first. He thus expressed his miscellaneous gratitude: "Ah! now, there's a dear good soul. You're a real—— Waiter, some cayenne—did you ever hear such a noise?—I never did. I don't know. Lord love you, my dear Daub, do keep your eye upon that plate: I have two gizzards yet to despatch here; do look sharp—those waiters whip things away terribly. What shall I sing? I don't know—do you? Do you know a steward? do, my dear Daub, club three port tickets, and call for a bottle of claret: 'pon my life I won't tell. Waiter, some"—"What, Sir?"—"I don't know." The foregoing may give a slight notion of the matter, but the manner is no more transferable than is that of Mademoiselle Mars.

The manager, possessed of such a prize, was not long in turning it to further account. "The Devil to Pay" was revived to exhibit Dignum in Sir John Loverule. His scarlet frock, leather breeches, topped boots, and riding whip, were unexceptionable, and might have qualified him, could he have ridden, to join the Belvoir hunt. His first song, "Ye gods, ye gave to me a wife," was tenderly sarcastic, as the author intended. In the duet, "Was ever man possessed of so sweet, so pretty a wife?" he still preserved his placid smile; but his "Bright Phœbus hath mounted the chariot of day," electrified the audience. There has been nothing like it since Raymond's Daggerwood. In the same piece Mrs. Jordan made a respectable stand in Nell.

My mention of the Belvoir hunt reminds me of an anecdote which I will relate, although chronologically premature. Dignum was, not long ago, on his tuneful



travels in the Duke of Rutland's neighbourhood, and was invited over to the castle by his Grace, to eat his dinner and sing "The lass that loves a sailor." Hardly was the soup swallowed, when our vocalist began to ejaculate as follows: "Came from London last Wednesday, my Lord Duke—saw your dear good mother—glorious creature still—'pon my life she is—I don't know." But to return to our theatricals.

When Dignum's Sir John Loverule ceased to draw houses, Cobb brought out his Haunted Tower, to exhibit the subject of this memoir in Robert. His animated mode of leading the hunting chorus,

"Hark, the sweet horn proclaims afar  
Against the stag the mimic war,"

will not soon be forgotten. I have heard the adjective "mimic" in the above couplet criticised as being improper. The war, it has been said, as touching the stag, is real downright belligerence. But Cobb had the Easter hunt in his eye, where hounds, hunters, whipper-in, and stag, are *hic et ubique*. The latter makes a regular joke of it.

Dignum once joined that hunt, and verified my assertion. The hounds threw off at Woodford Wells, and his roan mare threw off in a ditch at Wanstead; I found him sitting on a reversed milk-pail, and singing "The twins of Latona so kind to my bosom."

The Crop, of Prince Hoare's "No Song no Supper," exhibits an honest unsophisticated English miller, plain in his manners, but hearty in his hospitalities; in short, blue in his coat, clear in his falsetto, red in his waistcoat, and drab in his breeches and half-gaiters. To such a character who could do justice but Charles Dignum? De Wilde has taken him to the life. The portrait is "extant" in Mathew's Gallery at Ivy Cottage; "and had I met it on the plains of Indostan, I had revered it." The piece was triumphantly successful; and I must record an instance of retribution proceeding from Endless, a lawyer and (by a consequence not easily avoided by a dramatic author) a rogue. Endless is de-

tected in an amour with Crop's wife, concealed in a flour-sack. He is drawn out covered with white dust, with a fist full of meal. "I have some property of yours in my hands," he says to the miller. "Have you? then give it me," answered the latter. "Here it is," retorts the lawyer, flinging a handful of flour in Dignum's face. The audience laughed; and I am afraid Dignum did not much like it.

In "The Prisoner," Dignum and Sedgwick were two friends in love with two ladies. The former, in a Spanish suit of cut velvet, sang as follows:—

Whene'er she bade me cease to plead,  
Her breast would gently heave,  
And prove her lip beguiled a heart  
Ill practised to deceive.

In all love-songs (except those ending with *tol de roll loll*) it is customary for the singer to press the right hand upon the heart. In order to effect this movement, the hand must cross the body; but my great friend's increasing bulk now began to render this a matter easy in theory, but difficult in practice. He therefore petitioned Mr. Aaron Graham, at that time on the committee of management, to be allowed to press his left hand upon his heart. "Be it as prayed, and hereof give notice forthwith," said the little magistrate. I observe that Pelissier, at the French theatre in Tottenham-street, has since adopted the improvement.

About this time our great vocalist introduced me behind the scenes of Drury-lane Theatre: the green-room of that edifice was constituted differently from that of the present one. You entered at the bottom of the room. As we passed toward the fire-place, Miss Mellon thus greeted the subject of this memoir: "Diggy, my darling, how do you do?" We shall see hereafter what a frail and fatal edifice was erected by our hero upon this verbal foundation.

At this period Dignum was everybody at Vauxhall-gardens. Miss Leary, afterwards Mrs. Franklin, with her white gloves and three ostrich feathers, did much;

another and I could succeed in undermining the attraction of the attack upon : our Dignum and his cracked hat were the sole immensity of the establishment. I wrote a song for him, of which I only remember what follows :—

Found Fenn fatters like a moth;  
But now 't's the time to roam.  
For Fenn spreads the supper-dish,  
But Fenn calls for more.

I wrote it to encourage the waiters, who complained that the company stole off at twelve, to eat and drink in comfortable gardens at a cheaper rate.

All the Vauxhall pastoralists were dependent at this period upon Dignum for support. Many a Fanny have I known him convert into a bustling bride : many an Emma and an Eugenia brought me to mind mamma : and with many a Phillis was he sent away to the church in the grove. Happy man !

Dignum made an odd mistake one night at supper at Vauxhall : the mention of the waiters reminds me of the fact. One of the party, enraptured by arrack, gave the following toast, "A speedy death to all who hate us." Dignum took his glass and exclaimed, "With all my heart—a speedy death to all the waiters." There must have been a recent quarrel at the bar : he was not blood-thirsty by nature.

An actor is like a piece of Indian rubber. Leave him chilled, for two seasons, without an engagement, and he becomes hard and useless : but place him in the sunshine of public favour, and he becomes supple and able to lick up all the black lead that "the brethren of the broad sheet" can bestow upon him. Dignum now began to experience the hardening process, and time forbade him to indulge any expectation of the return of sunshine. He lost his engagement about the time when he found his grandson. "Ah, my dear Daub !" exclaimed he to me, at an accidental rencontre at the corner of Brydges-street, "it's all over with me at Vauxhall ; they have engaged Charles Taylor over my head. I'm sure of it.

"I don't know!" Vauxhall without Dignum! the thing appeared to me impossible. I could not separate the two ideas. They clung together like Helen and Judith. But the fact proved to be as he represented it. I have never set foot in the gardens since!

In this decay of his scenic glories, it suddenly occurred to the mind of the hero whose life I have feebly endeavoured to portray, that Miss Mellon's *ci-devant* "Diggy my darling" might be turned to connubial account. The fair utterer of that phrase has since become a wealthy widow, and had recently greeted our hero with a smile, and a "How do you do, Dignum?" from her dining-room bow-window in Piccadilly. "I should not wonder if she wants to become Mrs. Lump," said Emery, in the "Wags of Windsor." Dignum determined to pop the question, but the banker's residuary legatee declined the honour. I am sorry for it. Dignum and duke both begin with a D, and Dignum is by one syllable the longer. But widows are ticklish things, as I told him beforehand. "O for that matter," said Dignum, "I'm ticklish too." I did hope that, independently of this rib-sympathy, an attachment had "grown with their growth;" but it seems I was mistaken.

Dignum never recovered this disappointment. One voyage indeed I took with him last summer in a steam-vessel to Twickenham. We sailed majestically on the bosom of the Thames, leaving the Duke of Northumberland on our right and the Duchess of Buccleuch on our left, and our vessel discharged its numerous and motley freight on the Eel-pie Island, Dignum having previously amused the company by singing "The Lass of Richmond Hill," as we passed under the centre arch of Richmond bridge. The Admiralty barge, rowed by eight men in red stockings, shortly after our arrival on the island, brought a party of ladies and gentlemen in quest of refreshment upon the same insular spot, consisting of Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy, Mr. Croker and family, Colonel Shawe, Mr. Theodore Hook, Mr. James Smith, and two other gentlemen whose names I have not ascertained. This party dined under a canvass

awning in a remote part of the island, and on the signal for the steam-vessel company to prepare for re-embarking, the tenants of the Admiralty barge left their tent to amuse themselves by surveying the miscellaneous crew. The vocal veteran and myself were strolling on the island, and happened to arrive under the vacant awning, where two half glasses of Burgundy met our view, I seized one of the glasses, and asked Dignum for a toast. "The Duke of Clarence and the Navy!" exclaimed the veteran, tossing off the contents of the other glass. I felt the delicacy of the compliment, considering under whose awning we were, and pledged him with enthusiasm. He had eaten three oel-pies, half a duck, and six flounders, which made me hope that he was better. Alas, what are the hopes of man! He died within six weeks afterwards, and was deposited in the churchyard of St. Paul, Covent-garden, on the eastern side, not six feet from his great prototype Edwin. "Dear Tom, this brown jug," harmonized for four voices, was well sung over his grave by Messrs. Bellamy, Pyne, Isaacs, and Tinney.

I omitted to mention, in its proper place, that Dignum, being a Roman Catholic, attended, on the invitation of Mr. Cobbett, to enliven that gentleman's Catholic dinner-party at Kensington. His first song, "And ye shall walk in silk attire," was observed particularly to gratify Mr. O'Connell, prophetic as it appeared to be of the counsellor's forensic exaltation. Dignum after this dozed. The Catholic question was discussed, and when the "two wings" were noisily talked of, Dignum, starting from his slumber exclaimed, "Yes, if you please, and some tongue: wings are nothing without tongue."

That a man so immersed as Dignum was in his profession, should not be very accurately informed in matters of political history, will not be a source of much surprise. Thus, he imagined the Diet of Worms to mean the vault of all the Capulets. When asked whether he approved of the revocation of the edict of Nantz, he answered, "Yes, certainly; brandy cannot be too cheap." The *Pasco*-Peruvian mine shares were, according to his

conception, monopolized by the member from Penryn. On hearing that Mr. Calvert had determined to *canvass* the borough, he exclaimed, "I'm glad of it. I only wish he had done it before; I got wet through yesterday between Guy's Hospital and Tooley Street:" and learning from the Morning Chronicle that Mr. Sugden had something to do with the Rape of Bamber, he ejaculated, "And a married man too: what a shame!" These, however, are trifles, and ought not to detract from his merit as a singer.

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## GRIMM'S GHOST.

NO. XXI.

## TABLE-TALK ABOUT SHERIDAN.

Mrs. Lum, whose "Readings" were commemorated in one of my letters, has removed into Berners Street. I cannot say that I admire the street, frowned upon as it is by the Middlesex Hospital: however, there she is; and her first dinner-party was composed of Lord Robert Ranter, Colonel and Mrs. Nightingale, Sir Hans Dabs Oliphant and his lady, Augustus Thackeray, and Mr. and Mrs. Mudford.

Mrs. Lum, who is a very intellectual woman, had rather not give dinners at all; but people won't be read to upon any other terms. "Now I am going to be sung at," said Madame Vestris, with a distasteful air, as she walked upon the stage to encounter "Water parted from the sea." For myself, I would rather be sung at than read at on any day in the year, especially when Madame Vestris is the singer—but every one to his liking. The first course passed away without any accident; but, between its disappearance and the advent of the second, there occurred one of those hitches in

the scenery, which, when they take place at either of our winter theatres, are honoured by a him. How cooks manage as they do, is to me a miracle. To bring so many dishes to bear upon one given moment, notwithstanding the irregularity of guests in arriving at the place of appointment, appears to me a feat that may cope in merit with the skill of a Marlborough or a Wellington in bringing armies into the field. Upon the occasion in question, however, the cook, like General Mack, was at fault.

Lord Robert Ranter saw Mrs. Lum's distress, and gallantly stepped forward with a story about Sheridan to relieve her. "Did I not see Moore's life of Sheridan in the drawing-room?" inquired his lordship. "You did," answered the lady: "I mean to read it to you this evening, provided we get through Southey's Book of the Church in tolerable time." Lord Robert bowed his gratitude, and continued: "I am surprised that so clever a man as Mr. Moore should have omitted the story of Sheridan and the plate-warmer. Your servant's recent rencontre with that machine reminds me of the anecdote." Mrs. Lum looked towards the door, and finding it still closed against the second course, smilingly requested to hear it. "Sheridan," resumed Lord Robert, "was dining at Peter Moore's with his son Tom"—"Whose son Tom?" inquired Mr. Mudford. "Sheridan's, of course," answered his lordship. "Oh! I did not know," said Mr. Mudford; "I thought Peter Moore might have a son Tom—he was your last antecedent." "Well," resumed Lord Robert, "poor Tom was at that time in a very nervous debilitated state. The servant, in passing quickly between the guests and the fire-place, struck down the plate-warmer. This made a din of a rattle, and caused Tom Sheridan to start and tremble. Peter Moore, provoked at this, rebuked the servant, and added, 'I suppose you have broken all the plates?' 'No, sir,' said the servant, 'not one.' 'No!' exclaimed Sheridan; 'then, damn it, you have made all that noise for nothing.'"

Lord Robert, while narrating this anecdote, like a

skilful general, kept his eye upon the door, which opened with a boiled turkey as he uttered the words "nervous, debilitated state." The narrator spoke in slow time, to allow of the deposit of the partridges and sweetbreads : came to "start and tremble" on the arrival of the trifle and plover's eggs ; and concluded the anecdote with "noise for nothing" as the last dish was placed upon the table. "What kindness and humanity !" ejaculated Mrs. Lum to herself, "thus to draw off the attention of the company from an empty tablecloth. But his talents shall not go unrewarded. I will give him an extra evening's reading ; he shall have M'Culloch's 'Political Economy' all to himself."

Every guest at the table secretly determined to make the most of this story ; but, from lack of Lord Robert's *tact*, they none of them produced any effect from repeating it. Augustus Thackeray carried it off on the next evening into the city, to a dinner given by a Blackwell Hall factor in King's Arms Yard, Coleman Street ; and, aiming to extend Lord Robert Ranter's two-act piece into a five-act comedy, completely spoiled it. He thus prefaced it :—"Your mention, sir, of Harley's peeping Tom reminds me of poor Tom Sheridan. My first acquaintance with him was on the coming out of *Caractacus*, a serious pantomime, at the late Drury Lane Theatre. I believe Tom wrote the wrestling scene between Wallack and Miss Bristowe—then two children—but of this I am not certain."

At this period of his narrative, Thackeray had obtained the "ear of the court," as the phrase is in Westminster Hall, and had he "got over the ground," he might have "obtained his rule." "Mr. Dunder," said the late Lord Ellenborough to a barrister of the over-laying species, "the court is already with you, unless, by persevering to plead, you wish that it should be against you." A hint like this would have been of immense service to Thackeray, who thus went on :—

"On the night before its representation, Tom Sheridan was in the green-room, and so was I. Tom was engaged to sup with Sir John Carr in the temple, and



asked me if I knew whereabouts his chambers were. 'Yes,' said I, 'in Garden Court. I am going that way, and will show you.' 'Thank you,' said he. Poor fellow! I never saw him afterwards. Let me see, where was I?" "In Garden Court, sir," said a complaisant bill-broker who sat on Thackeray's left hand. But by this time, from the length of his prologue, his audience had dwindled away, one by one, until, to adopt the Rev. Sidney Smith's phrase, "he had preached himself bare to the very sexton." "Still, however, he proceeded, and was in the act of enlightening his solitary listening bill-broker upon the subject of Sheridan and the plate-warmer, when a rival annalist set the table in a roar, and effectually drowned poor Tom Sheridan by the following story:—

"You all knew Charles Tessier? (*omnes*, "All, all.") "Well! after living some years in Austin Friars, he took to high life, and went up to Grosvenor Street. He was invited one day to dine with a dandy colonel (whose promissory note he had indorsed) in Upper Brook Street. In stalked little Charles, at seven; and meaning to do a bit of grandeur, exclaimed, 'I can't think what could be the matter with my horses just now. The coachman could hardly manage them. He was obliged to drive them three times round Grosvenor Square to make them quiet.' 'Why, the fact is, 'Tessier,' says Dawes the banker, 'they were frightened—they did not know where they were. If they had been in Finsbury Square, they would have been quiet enough.' "

This sally fell so harmoniously upon the ears of a set of dwellers in Old Bethlem, Tokenhouse Yard, Lothbury, and Savage Gardens, that poor Thackeray was regularly floored.

Sir Hans Dab Oliphant went away from Mrs. Lum's with the anecdote in his sensorium, and thought himself perfectly sure of an audience in Lady Bromley, (a very quiet deaf old woman, who will listen to anything,) in a private box at Covent Garden Theatre. Unluckily, Miss Paton performed Mandane; and Sir Hans, who has no taste for anything but Shakspeare, was telling

the story, while that lady was singing "Fly, soft ideas, fly." The state of Lady Bromley's auriculars rendered it necessary that Sir Hans should tell his tale rather in alt; this the audience, who have got a knack of being attentive when Miss Paton sings, took in dudgeon; and accordingly cries of "Silence, turn him out, throw him over," put Sir Hans's soft ideas to the rout, and Sheridan's plate-warmer was once more thrown prostrate.

Mr. Mudford took the anecdote to the table of a "serious" family at Gravesend; but being in the act of moulting his profane feathers, (he has since been regularly evangelized by his wife,) he told Sheridan's retort without the oath, and consequently "missed stays."—Colonel Nightingale conveyed it to a house dinner at the United Service Club; but unfortunately the company, jointly and severally, had gotten into that vile trick of telling a parcel of stories, one after the other, about Sheridan, consisting of the old hash of composer of wine and importer of music; making a creditor trot his horse up and down Clarges Street, while he bolted into May Fair; Cumberland and his new tragedy; the Forty Thieves, which was nicknamed, at the time, Sheridan and his Thirty-nine Thieves; *et hoc genus omne*. In the midst of all this the poor plate-warmer could only "take its turn, and be forgotten."

Mind I am not blaming the story-tellers: every man, especially at a club, has a right to tell his own story; but for myself, where conversation, or rather narration, takes that turn at table, I make it a rule to call for my hat. There is no enduring it. I really believe I know every story that was ever told. What would I not give to be possessed of less wisdom! Whenever a man asks me at table, "Did you ever hear the anecdote of"—I constantly interrupt him with "Yes," without waiting for his noun substantive.

Shakspeare talks of evil deeds, which "return to plague the inventor." It is the same with stories. Lord Robert Ranter, on the day se'n-night which succeeded his narrative, actually had his own story told to him at

table by a dull man from Dundee, who would not be stopped, do what his lordship would. "Did your lordship ever hear a remarkably good story about Sheridan?" "Yes, sir, I have heard them all."—"It happened at Peter Moore's. You must know poor Tom Sheridan was far from well, and"—"I'd thank you for some bread."—"So, sir, the servant in going too near the"—"A glass of water, if you please."—"Fire-place, knocked down"—"Lady Somers, shall I have the pleasure of"—"The plate-warmer."—Here Lord Robert called out the whole *posse comitatús*, and the narrative danced on to the following miscellaneous tune. "Upon which Peter Moore said"—"No potatoes"—"Feeling for Tom Sheridan"—"Sherry for me, but take which you like"—"I suppose you have broken all the"—"Champagne, by all means"—"No gravy, but I'll trouble Captain Watts"—"No, sir," said the servant—"But"—"Peter Moore"—"More brocoli, and no butter." To such casualties will the most undaunted narrator be subject, who tells his stories when people are hungry!

After all, the pleasantest people at table are those who never tell stories at all. The merest trifle that springs from the occasion is worth a hundred of the best jokes or narratives that ever were transplanted. It is the same upon the stage. The moment when Mr. A. says to Mr. B., "Pray be seated," and sprawling out his legs, commences with, "It is now fifteen years since I first became acquainted with your father, then on foreign service. At the commencement of our friendship an incident occurred"—From that epoch I date a buzz of inattention from pit, box, and galleries.

Not that I would banish story-telling from all places. There are several dull streets where they may be resorted to with propriety. Old Burlington Street and Stratford Place are very good story-telling streets, especially when the opera house is not open. When that seat of song is accessible, people are plaguily apt to ring for their carriages, and leave you in the middle of their catastrophe. A friend of mine, in fact, out of the opera season, was cut short in the midst of a lamentable

fire of his, that happened at Birmingham, by seven men jumping up from table to go and hear "Cherry ripe" at the little theatre in the Haymarket. Ever since he has looked at the play-bill beforehand.

The dinner-hour in London is now so late, and there are so many music lions and lionesses prowling about upstairs in the two drawing-rooms, seeking what of Mozart or Rossini they may devour, that it requires the agility of Mazurier himself to whip in an anecdote at table. I have two very good stories of my own, that I have been trying to tell these seven years without success. It is as difficult as getting a writership to India. One of them, however, I contrived to fire off in Drury Lane green-room, under the bust of Mrs. Siddons. I knew my cue as well as the actors who heard me. The play was the "School for Scandal," and I knew myself sure of Mrs. Candour, Lady Sneerwell, Sir Benjamin Backbite, Crabtree, and Maria. The call-boy, I was aware, would leave them alone for three long acts; they had nowhere but the green-room to go to. The story was as follows:—Old Wewitzer was joking and laughing at rehearsal, instead of minding the business of the scene. Raymond, who was then stage-manager, took him to task for this, and said, "Come, Mr. Wewitzer, I wish you would pay a little attention."—"Well, sir," answered Wewitzer, "so I am: I'm paying as little as I can."

My other story is about Sheridan and Delpini the clown, the man who, on the Prince of Wales's refusal to ask Harris to give him a benefit, said, "Very well, sir, den I must go to your papa's Bench." This, however, is not the story in question. What I have been dining out so long to tell, relates to a quarrel between Sheridan and Delpini. There is no time like the present: I will tell it now. Sheridan and Delpini fell into high words relative to an arrear of salary due to the latter, as Man Friday in the "Robinson Crusoe" of the former. Sheridan, provoked at what he deemed the insolence of the pantomimist, told him that he had for-

gotten his station. "No, indeed, Monsieur Sheridan, I have not," retorted Delpini; "I know the difference between us perfectly well. In birth, parentage, and education, you are superior to me; but in life, character, and behaviour, I am superior to you!"

## MARTIAL IN LONDON.

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### THE BOW WINDOW.

Beneath the Piazza two wags chanced to pass,  
Where a shop was adorned by an acre of glass.  
Quoth Tom, *sotto voce*, "Hail, Burnett and Co.!"  
Success now-a-days is dependent on show,"  
"Not so," answered Richard, "here industry reigns;  
Success is dependent on using great *panes*."

---

### BEER SHOPS.

"These beer shops," quoth Barnabas, speaking in alt,  
"Are ruinous—down with the growers of malt!"  
"Too true," answers Ben, with a shake of the head,  
"Wherever they congregate, honesty's dead.  
That beer breeds dishonesty causes no wonder,  
'Tis nurtured in crime—'tis concocted in plunder;  
In Kent, while surrounded by flourishing crops,  
I saw a rogue picking a pocket of hops."

---

### TO A WEALTHY VINEGAR MERCHANT.

Let Hannibal boast of his conquering sway,  
Thy liquid achievements spread wider and quicker;  
By vinegar he through the *Alps* made his way,  
But thou through the *World* by the very same liquor.

## EDMUND BURKE.

The sage of Beaconsfield, who wrote  
 The crimes of Gaul's degenerate crew,  
 But little thought his name would note  
 The murd'rous deeds his pencil drew.

His anti-jacobinic work  
 Still lives—his name preserves it still;  
 And—verb impassable—"to Burke,"  
 Implies to kidnap and to kill.

---

ON CERTAIN PRINTED "CONVERSATIONS" BETWEEN A  
 VISCOUNT AND A COUNTESS.

In *letters*, these colloquies make us all see  
 That women are equal to men:  
 The titles of either begin with a B,  
 And each of them ends with an N.

What he says to her, the whole Town understand  
 As the impulse of spleen or of whim;  
 But the Bane has an Antidote ready at hand,  
 In the Sense of what she says to him.

---

## ON THE SAME VISCOUNT.

"He flatter'd in youth, he lampoon'd in his prime,"  
 Quoth Memory's Bard of our poet;  
 But the fault was not his, 'twas a deed done by Time,  
 My very next stanza shall show it.

Whoever has sported on Tempe's green lawn,  
 Has found out the truth of the matter;  
 'Tis plain that, by law mythologic, a Faun  
 In process of time grows a Satyr.

THE THAMES TUNNEL.

Good Monsieur Brunel,  
 Let misanthropy tell  
 That your work, half complete, is begun ill;  
 Heed them not, bore away  
 Through gravel and clay,  
 Nor doubt the success of your Tunnel.

That very mishap,  
 When Thames forced a gap,  
 And made it fit haunt for an otter,  
 Has proved that your scheme  
 Is no catchpenny dream;—  
 They can't say, "’twill never hold water."

---

CRAVEN STREET, STRAND.

In Craven-street, Strand, ten attorneys find place,  
 And ten dark coal-barges are moor'd at its base.  
 Fly, Honesty, fly! seek some safer retreat;  
 For there's craft in the river, and craft in the street.

---

LINES WRITTEN UNDER A PORTRAIT OF JUPITER AND  
 DANAË.

Fair Maid of Argos! dry thy tears, nor shun  
 The bright embrace of Saturn's amorous son.  
 Pour'd from high Heaven, athwart thy brazen tower,  
 Jove bends propitious in a glittering shower.  
 Take, gladly take, the boon the Fates impart;  
 Press the gilt treasure to thy panting heart;  
 And to thy venal sex this truth unfold—  
 How few, like Danaë, clasp both god and gold!

---

HERALDRY.

Where'er a hatchment we discern,  
 (A truth before ne'er started,)  
 The motto makes us surely learn  
 The sex of the departed.



If 'tis the husband sleeps, he deems  
 Death's day a "felix dies"  
 Of unaccustom'd quiet dreams,  
 And cries—*In cælo Quies.*

But if the wife, she from the tomb  
 Wounds, Parthian like, "post tergum,"  
 Hints to her spouse his future doom,  
 And threatening cries—*Resurgam?*

---

### WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

As late the 'Trades' Unions, by way of a show,  
 O'er Westminster Bridge strutted five in a row,  
 "I feel for the bridge," whisper'd Dick, with a shiver,  
 "Thus tried by the mob, it may sink in the river."  
 Quoth Tom, a crown lawyer, "Abandon your fears;  
 As a bridge, it can only be tried by its piers."

---

### MORE HERALDRY.

Darby and Joan, years twenty-six,  
 Played conjugal attachment—  
     They seemed devoted, constant, true;  
     But Joan declared she never knew  
     The happiness a match meant;  
 Till when, as sole executrix,  
 She put up Darby's hatchment.

---

### MISS DUNCAN AND MRS. JORDAN.

When Jordan, foremost of Thalia's train,  
 Slept in the straw awhile in Drury-lane,  
 Duncan, the novice, seized the chair of state,  
 And play'd the cobbler's metamorphosed mate,  
 But soon to health restored by Warren's art,  
 Thalia's favourite re-assumed the part;

When lo! a gallery wag, (one Andrew Page,)
 Who heard the glad announcement from the stage,  
 Gave the fair substitute this loud farewell—  
 “Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a Nell.”

---

ALLITERATIVE TRIBUTE TO THE ORIGINAL  
 PERFORMERS IN “SIMPSON AND CO.”

Gifted with Gallic gabble and grimace,  
 Laugh, leer, and lollop, lauding lots of lace,  
*Orger's* odd onset—opportune, *outré*,  
 Pours pungent pepper o'er the pointed play.  
 Though *Cooper's* courtships kept continual cheer,  
 Droll *Davison* disdains to doubt her dear;  
 But, blandly bountiful, in blindness blest,  
 Won't wonder what he wants with widow *West*.  
 No gleam of glory gladdens *Glover's* gloom;  
 Ripe for revolt, she rambles round the room;  
 While, wondering what can wake the woman's woe,  
 Trim *Terry* treads the traps on tottering toe,  
 Cross'd and confounded by his cozening Co.  
 These freaks and frolics—freak without offence—  
 Pleasing the pit, put poet *Poole* in pence.

---

CHARADE.

Prone from our grasp an outstretched wing to burst,  
 Even while I speak my second is my first.  
 Use well that second; nourish self-control,  
 And in pursuing wisdom find my whole.

---

THE RICHMOND TAVERNS.

The Star and Garter'd Knight of old,  
 When adverse Fate debarr'd him,  
 High on a rock contrived to hold,  
 “A castle's” strength to guard him.

But here war's chief in vain would try  
 To check a martial sally,—  
 The Star and Garter towers on high,  
 The Castle's in the valley.

---

## HACKNEY COACHMEN.

When injury they suffer, what  
 Opprobrium they inherit?  
 Unconscionable call them not;  
 Their conscience is their merit.  
 'Twere well if they, at anger's beck,  
 Who load them with detractions,  
 Possess'd, like them, an inward check  
 Upon their outward actions.

---

THE TWO AGITATORS, WRITTEN AT A BALL AT  
BRAMBLEBURG.

Great Daniel O'Connell is gone to the North:  
 His tongue a remonstrance indignant pours forth,  
 And eloquence flows from his mouth.  
 But you, pretty Jane, with a pair of black eyes,  
 Come over the natives of Kent to surprise,  
 And agitate hearts in the South.  
 He fires with a word, and you with a look,—  
 Head and heart thus invaded, what mortal can brook?  
 Alas! there's no end to our woes.  
 He agitates old, and you agitate young:  
 Till you close your peepers, and he holds his tongue,  
 Poor Britain will ne'er find repose.

---

## A CAUTION ADDRESSED TO LADY H——N.

On reading the following Advertisement in the "Morning Herald:"  
 "Colosseum—Various Exhibitions,—Sports and Fights, in which the  
 visitors will partake."

Those Colosseum fights eschew,  
 Avoid the fierce attack:  
 Else, going there with eyes of blue,  
 You'll come away with black.

LINES ADDRESSED TO DOCTOR PARIS ON HIS  
BIRTH-DAY.

Namesake of Helen's favourite boy,  
Who shunn'd the martial fray,  
May all your days be days of joy,  
Like this, your natal day.  
My votive glass—not pledg'd by stealth,  
I fill at Bacchus' shrine;  
And thus, convivial, drink your health.  
Whose skill establish'd mine.

---

RETAIL VERACITY.

A dame bought a comb for the crown of her head.  
And thus to the shopwoman cautiously said—  
“Well, here is the money, and send it me home;  
But are you quite sure 'tis a *Tortoise*-shell comb?”  
“O yes, 'tis the fellow of those on the shelf—  
My husband, ma'am, bought it from *Torty* himself.”

---

ON THE PROJECTED NEW HOUSE.

Ye sons of Inigo and Wren,  
Exhaust not satire's quiver,  
By proving to unlearned men  
Which house should front the river.  
I hope that both may 'scape the flames,  
And live through countless years;  
But that which trenches on the Thames,  
Must be the house of *Piers*.

---

NEAT WINES.

At Brompton I, when winter reigns,  
Great-coated quaff my wine,  
But when red Phœbus tans the plains.  
I under canons dine.

My glass I to each season shape,  
 Nor keep, in either, Lent.  
 My drink, when winter frowns, is *Cape*,  
 My summer beverage *Tent*.

---

LAMENTATIONS ON THE COAST OF AFRICA,  
 1st JANUARY, 1836.

Alas! we're undone,  
 Our season of fun  
 All doleful and wintry appears;  
 The lord of misrule  
 May to-night play the fool,  
 But where is our Day of All-jeers?

---

TO AN IRISH BOOKSELLER.

Vesuvius and you should be bound in a yoke,  
 Both *craters* are sending out volumes of smoke.

---

THE POET'S PATE. ADDRESSED TO MRS. M.

I cannot join you, valued friend,  
 To Leamington—I therefore send  
 My portrait in my stead;  
 You've often seen my head in print,  
 And now engraved in mezzotint,  
 I tender you my head.

I, gay and careless in my prime,  
 Ne'er by the forelock caught old Time  
 By chance or by design;  
 Survey my front, and you'll agree,  
 That now (whate'er his malice be,) he  
 Will ne'er catch me by mine.

THE NEW COOK ON TRIAL AT FLEMING HOUSE.

My lord, an objection I've plump'd on;  
Your sentence must yet be delay'd;  
The hearing can't take place at Brompton,  
The venue's improperly laid.

Then nonsuit this case; be impartial,  
And send it to Portsmouth instead;  
In trying a *cook* by court-martial,  
The court must be held at *Spithead*.

---

BLUE INK.

You ask me, Edward, what I think  
Of this new fashionable ink?  
I'll answer briefly, Ned.  
Methinks it will be always blue;  
At all events, when used by you;  
It never will be *red*.

---

PIUS ÆNEAS.

Virgil, whose epic song enthrals,  
(And who in song is greater?)  
Throughout, his Trojan hero calls  
Now "*pius*," and now "*pater*."

But when, the worst intent to brave,  
With sentiments that pain us,  
Queen Dido meets him in the cave,  
He dubs him "*Dux Trojanus*."

And well he alters there the word:  
For, in this station, sure,  
"*Pius*" Æneas were absurd,  
And "*Pater*" premature.

## RICHMOND BRIDGE.

Waste lands may at Twick'nam be seen,  
 And Barnes hath its wilderness too:  
 Where Thames rolls its waters between,  
 Tall Richmond uprises to view.

Her bridge, from its summit, unfolds  
 A prospect that loyalty cheers—  
 Those Commons at distance it holds,  
 And leans for support on the Piers.

---

## THE NEW BARONETS' CLUB.

Ye valorous Sirs, in your armour and spurs,  
 Whose crest is a hand red and gory;  
 I prithee adhere to the sword and the spear,  
 A club cannot add to your glory.

---

## COLMAN'S EPITAPH.

Within this monumental bed  
 Apollo's favourite rests his head:  
 Ye Muses, cease your grieving.  
 A son the father's loss supplies,  
 Be comforted, though Colman dies,  
 His "Heir at Law" is living.

---

## SLAVERY—AN IMPROMPTU, WRITTEN AT GORE HOUSE

Mild Wilberforce, by all beloved,  
 Once own'd this hallow'd spot,  
 Whose zealous eloquence improved  
 The fetter'd Negro's lot.  
 Yet here still slavery attacks  
 Whom B——n invites;  
 The chains from which he freed the Blacks,  
 She rivets on the Whites.

“Then Flavia, cease this idle rant,  
One solemn truth let Reason speak—  
When woman has no more to grant,  
Her lover has no more to seek.”

---

### THANKS FOR A PLACE.

An old Borough-reeve served a politic Duke,  
And proved, by so doing, a wise man;  
For the politic Duke opportunity took  
To make his friend's son an exciseman.

Dick, led by his father, the nobleman saw,  
And certainly well to behave meant;  
With many a bow he put out his fore paw,  
And scraped his hind leg on the pavement.

“I'm come, Sir, to thank you, but feel here a burr;  
At speaking I be but a fresh un:”  
The Borough-reeve whispered, “Boy, don't call him Sir,  
Your Grace is the proper expression.”

“When feyther, Sir, told me I'd gotten the place,  
I skipt like a colt in a paddock;”—  
“Sir, again?” cried the father,—“you fool! say your  
Grace—  
Say your Grace—you're as deaf as a haddock!

Thus tutor'd, the son of the old Borough-reeve  
Cried out, with a pious endeavour,—  
“For what we are going this day to receive,  
The Lord make us thankful for ever!”

---

### THE SHOWER BATH.

Quoth Dermot (a lodger at Mrs. O'Flynn's,)  
“How queerly my shower bath feels!  
It shocks like a posse of needles and pins,  
Or a shoal of electrical eels.

Quoth Murphy, “Then mend it, and I'll tell you how:  
It's all your own fault, my good fellow:  
I used to be bother'd as you are, but now  
I'm wiser—I take my umbrella.”



## MACADAME MOTTO.

“My Essay on Roads,” quoth MacAdam, “lies there.  
 Result of a life’s incubation:  
 But does not the title-page look rather bare?  
 I long for a Latin quotation.”

A Delphic oracle of Virgil stood nigh,  
 To second his classic desire:  
 Where the road-maker is: on the shepherd’s reply—  
 “*Mix mure*”—“I rather add *mire*!”

---

## MASCULINE AND FEMININE.

In England rivers all are males—  
 For instance, Father Thames—  
 Whoever in Columbia sails,  
 Finds them ma’amzelles or dames.

Yes, there the softer sex presides,  
 Aquatic, I assure ye,  
 And Mrs. Sippy ro’ls her tides  
 Responsive to Miss Souri.

---

## ON SEEING A PICTURE OF UGOLINO.

“This Ugolino? psha,” says Will,  
 “He’s painted much too skinny,”  
 “Prihee,” replied his friend, “be still—  
 You find fault like a niddy;

Were you imprison’d three long days,  
 With nought your teeth between-o,  
 When on the fourth you go your ways,  
 I’ll warrant—“*You-go-loan-o*.””

---

## DAYS AND NIGHTS.

“Dear god of day, come down on earth,”  
 Thus spoke the queen of night,  
 “Leave heav’n to Him who gave us birth,  
 And give the world new light.

On Malta's rock I'll take my stand,  
 To calm the seaman's fears;  
 And you shall radiantly command  
 O'er barbarous Algiers."

Each godhead straight on each alights  
 With such a potent blaze,  
 That Malta long was ruled by *knights*,  
 And Algiers still by *deys*.

---

THE THREE BLIND DEITIES.

My heart adored three powers above,  
 And bow'd to Justice, Fortune, Love;  
 I sought their smiles, but sigh'd to find  
 That Justice, Fortune, Love, were blind.

O would the powers that stole their sight  
 In sympathy their souls unite,  
 Then might the three display to view  
 Charms that the Graces never knew!

Justice the smiles of Fortune prove,  
 And Fortune gild the smiles of Love.

---

THE PONTE-FRACT M.P.

You ask me why Ponte-fract borough should sully  
 Its fame, by returning to parliament Gully;  
 The etymological cause I suppose is,  
 His breaking the bridges of so many noses.

---

TO MISS EDGEWORTH.

We every day bards may "*anonymous*" sign;  
 That Refuge, Miss Edgeworth, can never be thine.  
 Thy writings, where satire and moral unite,  
 Must bring forth the name of their author to light;  
 Good and bad join in telling the source of their birth,  
 The bad own their *edge*, and the good own their *worth*.

## PROGRAM

Look there at Larch's story. "The poor man must look well.  
 "How time is passing will tell."  
 For I am sure he will be better's good."  
 Look here. "Then he will be better's good."

## TIME LIMITED

Time were only a distance  
 Thy power be Russian cross among.  
 The world, dear old man and friend—  
 Though you may'st then Young to Kambie.  
 Thou never was more Kambie Young

## THE INVOLUNTARY CONCURSOR.

As strong as he is as a witcher and heather.  
 From his single-handed a cunning-house heather.  
 Says Dick. "That's a new sight of hand, it is plain.  
 You may see it in your eye."

WRITTEN ON MR. KEMBLE'S DOUBLE WINDOW IN  
RUSSELL STREET.

Rheumatic pains make Kemble halt.  
 He, fretting in amazement,  
 To counteract the dire assault,  
 Erects a double casement.

Ah! who from fell disease can run?  
 With added ills he's troubled.  
 For, when the glazier's task is done,  
 He finds his pains are doubled.

## ON A LATE RACING NOBLEMAN.

Here lies of quadrupeds the slave,  
 Of woman-kind the gay deceiver,  
 Unskill'd a favourite race to save,  
 He lost a heat—and gain'd a fever.

To those who doubt that life's a span,  
 His lordship's fate will plainly show it—  
 Once *on* the turf a living man,  
 But now a skeleton *below* it.

---

 THE RAILROAD ENGINEER.\*

Though a railroad, learned Rector,  
 Passes near your parish spire,  
 Think not, sir, your Sunday lecture  
 E'er will overwhelm'd expire.

Put not then your hopes in weepers,  
 Solid work my road secures,  
 Preach whate'er you will—*my* sleepers†  
 Never will awaken *yours*.

\* These lines will be read with deep interest, as being literally *the last* ~~ser~~ *written* by their highly-gifted and deeply-lamented author.

† The supporters of the iron rails are technically termed *sleepers*.

## ENDYMION THE EXILE.

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### MODERN CRITICISM IN ENGLAND (1860).

#### NO. I.

CRITICISM in modern England may be called the art of cutting jokes at other people's expense. I am told it was formerly the custom here to judge of plays and players by rules drawn from nature: they are now not judged, but condemned, in epigrams manufactured by art, and poet and player are treated like a couple of whetstones, upon which the periodical critic sharpens the edge of his wit. There is a quarterly review published in North Britain, which was, I believe, the harbinger of this sort of warfare. The principles upon which that journal is conducted, are extremely simple. If the author is to be opposed, these Caledonian critics peep into the Encyclopedia to get some ideas on the other side of the question. They then set up an opposing hypothesis of their own, flourish away through a dozen octavo pages, in the front of the stage, elbowing the poor writer to the very side-wing, and in the concluding paragraph inform their readers that he is of a different opinion, and of course is a blockhead. But if a man publish a book, containing truths all but self-evident, his case is yet more mortifying; they pilfer his foolscap to encircle their own pates, adopt his sentiments, appropriate his witticisms, nay, incorporate his very diction, and finish by telling the public, not that they are of his opinion, but that he

is of theirs. These northern jays then take wing to pluck the plumage from some other poor peacock, and leave him, without a single feather, to the consolation of screaming reproaches in an expostulating pamphlet. All this, my dear Ambrose, is sufficiently preposterous, but the scheme has nevertheless been found to answer. The success of these northern invaders has generated a herd of imitators, who join in the pursuit, in hopes of partaking the plunder; and now, from one end of the town to the other, to be pleased with nothing is looked upon as proof of genius.

A Sunday newspaper is in London a plant of modern growth. At first it made its appearance like the sober yew-tree in a country churchyard, and its leading article was a lecture suitable to the solemnity of the day. Such an article, however, was soon found not to answer the author's purpose, namely, to promote the sale of the paper. The grave citizen and sober mechanic who went to church to hear a sermon for the sake of decorum, thought it "righteous over-much" to pay sixpence to read one. A lucky votary of the quill then bethought himself of criticising the players. This was a fortunate hit! To write sermons on a day when churches were open, was evidently superfluous: to scribble critiques on plays, on a day when theatres were shut, was obviously a more profitable speculation. In vain did the weary children of Thespis hope to fulfil at least *one* of the commandments by "resting on the seventh day;"—no, it was ordered that the town should be amused six days with their talents, and on the seventh with their defects. In this grave country, Sunday is a day dedicated to general repose: *actors* and *post-horses* are the only animals allowed to be lashed on the Sabbath.

These Sunday-critics are, in one respect, of the Quaker race; they think it possible for both outward and inward man to attain perfection; and in author and actor nothing short of perfection will satisfy the fervour of their zeal. Reynolds is reproved for not rivalling Congreve, and Colman is reminded that a bard once lived whose name was Shakspeare. Reasoning and good advice give place

to banter and sarcasm. Joe Miller and Tom Brown are substituted for Dacier and Aristotle, and, by an odd coincidence, the press is teaching us to hate our friends, while the pulpit is instructing us to love our enemies. A writer of this stamp ought to spread his goose quills, and wing his flight to another planet. *Man as he is*, is an animal totally unworthy his notice. Thou knowest, my dear friend, that I am six feet in height, and being so, I naturally, when I walk the streets of London, consider myself a tall man. Suppose some short, jaundice-eyed fellow should accost me in the Strand, and tax me with littleness, because I cannot measure height with the Irish giant. How do you think I ought to answer my yellow dwarf? Why, to this effect. "My good little soul, it matters not to me whether the Irish giant be in altitude eight feet or eighteen. He is a man of a million. I am six inches taller than the race of man in general, and twelve inches taller than you who take me to task. That is quite sufficient for my purpose. Get some laundry-maid to squeeze you in a mangle till you are dilated to my dimensions, and then we may talk upon equal terms."—If ever, Ambrose, you commit your thoughts to the press, remember this precept,—*Litera scripta manet*. Be as careless and as facetious as you please round a table: there a joke may be explained, or a charge retracted, but what has once passed the press cannot be recalled. The pen is a weapon that may wound to distant ages: both policy and humanity require it to be wielded with caution.

Remember, too, that there are barking critics ever on the watch to snap at the blunders of authors, as curs snap at flies. Dryden, a great English poet, and Blackmore, a little one, were alike subject to their attacks.

The press may be compared to a mouse-trap, and a good joke is the roasted cheese with which it is baited. The nibbling scribe scrambles in, and relishes his own wit with uncommon *gout*. He soon, however, finds that he has brought himself into a scrape, and then endeavours to escape. The effort is vain, and he only pricks his nose against the wires in the attempt.

## MODERN CRITICISM IN ENGLAND (1809).

## NO. II.

When a man writes a book here, there is generally as much clamour excited against him, as if he had roasted a child. He is looked upon as such a Julius Cæsar in the republic of letters, that every *Brute* who can wield a quill, thinks it meritorious to have a thrust at him.

That this should be the case, on the appearance of a work of imagination, the experience of our own behaviour would prevent us from being surprised: we are extremely loth to allow others to be wittier than ourselves: it is a mark of prodigious wisdom to be dissatisfied, and the cut and dry jokes upon these occasions are in such ready preservation, that it requires no ordinary good nature to abstain from the use of them. For instance, the blank-verse lines of a sacred poem are mere segments cut out of the Bible, and placed in parallel order, like the steps of a ladder, by means whereof the bard hopes to work miracles, like Peter in the "Tale of a Tub," and to endow himself with poetical inspiration. Pastorals are mere narcotics. Amaryllis reclines her head in slumber under a beech-tree, and the reader reposes his on a mahogany table. If the writer, according to the old customs, presumes to invoke the muse, he is reminded by the reviewer that he has done nothing more than leaving his card at her door, and that the intimacy is not likely to extend further; and if, like the poet Gray, he rushes, *sans ceremonie*, into the thick of the battle, he is informed that Aganippe is not always a cold bath, to invigorate by a single plunge, but that it occasionally emasculates the swimmer, like the streamlet recorded in Ovid. All this, my dear Ambrose, is indubitably funny, and generally gives pleasure to the reader, in proportion as it gives pain to the poet, resembling (to borrow a simile from Fielding) "one of



those punches in the stomach exchanged in a boxing-match, which, though they give such exquisite delight to the spectator, are the source of little or no pleasure to the receiver." But when a man publishes a mathematical truth, telling the world that the three angles of a triangle, taken together, are equal to two right angles; or when he broaches an arithmetical truism, such, for instance, as that multiplied by four produces a greater quantity than when merely added to the same number, it might be supposed that calumny and declamation would be silent, and that ridicule, if awakened at all, would be employed, not in denying the truth of those assertions, but in laughing at the credulity of a writer who should think it necessary to compose two octavo volumes in proving such self-evident propositions. A late fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, has found out that a newly married couple, possessed of a small farm, may, in the course of five or six years, be blessed with five or six children; and that if the farm be only adequate to the support of the wedded pair, their offspring must either starve or wander forth in quest of subsistence elsewhere. He then supposes the golden age, so confidently predicted by English philosophers, to have arrived, and the hitherto trackless wilderness to be parcelled out in farms of the above description, in which case the command of seeking a subsistence elsewhere will be liable to this inconvenience, that there will be no subsistence elsewhere to be found. Thus circumstanced, the five or six little unfortunates will share the fate of Ugolino's bantlings. It cannot be denied, that it had been better not to have been born, than to die from want of food. The inference of the philosopher is this:—the source of all evil is the folly, not to say criminality, of marrying without a fair chance of supporting a family.

I have thus compressed into a few lines the contents of two octavo volumes: and one would suppose that the position they aim at establishing, namely, the certain increase of expense incurred by an increasing family, and the certain limitation of means to meet that expense, are positions too palpable to be contradicted.

"My muse," says a lively dramatic writer, of the reign of Queen Anne, "produces me a play every year, and my wife a child; but I find the latter much more disposed to live than the former." I should deem this a secret well worth knowing; and yet, O the ingratitude of man! were I to detail half the outcry that has been raised against this unfortunate late fellow of Jesus College, I should pester you with letters, rivalling in length those of the voluminous Richardson. He has been attacked in weekly publications by apostates, bearded and beardless; he is assailed by the cloudy anarchist, whose novels are dull philosophy, and whose philosophy is dull novelty: he is pounced upon by ravens, and condemned by revelations: grave divines who have theories, and grave matrons who have daughters to establish, join in anathemas against the profane intruder, who has thus dared to lift the sacred veil that covers the altar of Hymen! "What!" cry they, speaking all at once, "shall an ugly fellow, of one of the ugliest colleges in Cambridge, with feelings as sluggish as his own Cam, presume to control the impulse of nature? shall our daughters, whose complexion, natural or acquired, vie with the lily and the rose, be checked in their endeavours to engraft upon the marigold, and thrown back to wither, an encumbrance on their native stalk? Shall our dear boys, whom we are training up to wed an adjoining freehold, and for whom the pious founder of our new national theatre has provided a tier of private boxes, to snatch them from the contagion above and below, be taught presumptuously to look before they leap? Shall domestic happiness, which our own dear Mr. Cowper has called, the "only bliss which has survived the fall," be cut up by the roots, and the garden of Eden converted into a wilderness, by a sceptic who presumes to judge and decide, where orthodox piety believes and trembles?" "Alas! ladies and gentlemen," replies the alarmed and modest author, "I pretend not to judge and decide—to decide and judge are doughty attributes, and I leave them to my opponents. I am not the manufacturer of the system, I aim only at being its expounder.

When they who so loudly talk of the duty of entering into the married state, prove to me that their own marriages were contracted from that motive, and that a new treaty or an old heiress was not the *primum mobile* that introduced them to Hymen, I will bow my head in silence. At present, I have merely to repeat in my appendix what I have asserted in the body of my work: 'Eating and drinking are necessaries, but marriage is a luxury; a refined and a laudable one I allow, but still a luxury, and as such, not to be encouraged without a reasonable chance of ability to support it.' " The mildness of the reply is vain—the outcry is renewed, and, by a consequence as old as the days of Socrates, his motives are arraigned because his arguments are unanswerable.

Such, Ambrose, is the philosopher, and such are his antagonists. Every bob-wigged citizen, who, as president at a public meeting, strings a bead-roll of silly and disaffected propositions, is thanked for his able and impartial conduct in the chair; but when a grave mathematician expends his nightly oil in enlightening the public, and shows that abstinence from marriage is a more desirable check to population than vice or misery, he is called a prodigal, a misanthrope, a deist, and fifty hard names beside. The British public is like a sick child. It is not enough that the medicine you proffer be conducive to its health, it must also be agreeable to its palate, otherwise you stand a very excellent chance of having the contents of the chalice thrown back into your own face. For my part, had I twenty times the talents of the late fellow of Jesus, I feel too little regard for my species to employ them unsolicited in their behalf. No; my motto is, "Qui vult decipi, decipiatur." Before I would turn oculist to such a race of moles, I would let them grope their own way through mud and mire, like the merchant Abudah in the mountains of Tasgi.

## ENGLISH COURTS OF LAW.

Thou sayest true, Ambrose. In all my perambulations, I may well take shame to myself for having omitted to visit the English courts of law. Thy letter, however, no sooner reached me, than I determined to atone for my negligence in that particular. English law, as thou hast well observed, is the envy and admiration of the Continent, whose natives can only gaze at so costly a commodity at a distance. Yet where, my friend, shall I begin, and how give you any insight into the principles and practice of such an intricate science. If, after marching to the extremity of Westminster Hall, I take the right-hand road, I there find it laid down as a principle of *equity* that men may give written evidence in their own cause. If I prefer the sinister path, I enter a court where it is held as a principle of law, that no man shall speak in his own cause, and that all evidence shall be *veri voce*. If, like the Captain in the opera, I determine to have nothing to say to either of these beauties, but steer between both, behold me at the door of St. Stephen's Chapel. In short, my friend, the ways of the law are well exemplified by the puzzling inlets and outlets of the huge mansion under whose roof it is administered. Ariadne complimented her beloved Theseus with a clue to guide him out of the labyrinth; and I would advise every man who is enamoured of his solicitor, to adopt a similar expedient in Westminster Hall. What with dark passages, zig-zag alleys, coffee-houses, and *custos brevium*, it is almost as impossible to get into a court of law as to get out of one. If you wish to peep at an Exchequer baron in his ermine, 'tis odds but you encounter an old woman selling apples: and if the gallery of the House of Commons be the object in view, I will lay thee a wager that thou breakest thy nose against a pillar in the Court of Common Pleas, with no other remedy for the wound than the black patch of a king's serjeant.

Fraught with these reflections, and sipping a tumbler of lemonade in the Exchequer Coffee-house, one Mr. Hilary, by proffering the Times newspaper and a pinch of snuff, introduced himself to my acquaintance, and finding me as ignorant of modern courts and practitioners as old Canute in his arm-chair by the sea-side, insisted upon ushering me into the courts as a dilettante spectator, previously to my appearing in the more imposing character of plaintiff or defendant. I will introduce thee to this jackall of John Doe with as little ceremony as he introduced himself to me. Mr. Hilary is as smart, spruce, smirking a Term-trotter as ever paraded Westminster Hall in black stockings and white buckles, with a bag of combustibles under his arm. He is by far too discreet ever to give a decided opinion—dissents by a shrug, and assents by a nod. He is *induced to think* that ink is black, and supposing the case of one man being kicked by another from the top of the Monument, is *rather of opinion* that such a casualty would endanger the necks of both parties. In short, Hilary is so prudent a man, that though he has carried a blue bag these twenty years, he was never once known to let the cat out of it. Why this gentleman should offer any service to me, who could not even pay for the service of a *latitat*, I must leave it to wiser heads to guess. Perhaps he inherited the feelings of the Lombard-street banker, who, to bring grist to the mill, was wont to give a book gratis, and lend a man five shillings to open an account in it.

My new acquaintance was in the very act of extending his snuff-box a second time for my use, when his clerk entered in a great hurry, and informed him that the cause of *Wrangle v. Tollman* stood next. “Odso,” cried Hilary, “we must be off then. Come along, Mr. What-dy’e-call-’em, I’ll get you a seat, I’ll warrant.” So saying, he snatched up his bag of tools, and, followed by me, scampered across the hall to the Court of King’s Bench. When we had squeezed our way in, we found that two previous sufferers were yet unexecuted; so Mr. Hilary had time to arrange his budget,

and informed me in a whisper, while so doing, that he was concerned for the plaintiff in an action of detinue (that, I think, was the name) for a cart-horse, which the defendant, a turnpike man, had thought fit to detain for toll. I cast my eye over the paper containing the alleged grievance, and found that the defendant was a monstrous offender indeed! he having seized, taken, and detained divers, to wit, five hundred horses, mares, and geldings. "Mon Dieu!" said I to Hilary. "Why, I question whether the Prince of Conde's stables at Chantilly could have contained all this plunder! Why, the fellow has pocketed a whole regiment of cavalry!" "Pooh!" answered Hilary, "we only go for one mare, and a poor sorry animal it is." "That may be," replied I, "but if such be the multiplication table of the law, I think your client will soon be as poor and as sorry as the mare." I was now interrupted by the rattling of parchment, and looking upward, beheld the judge perusing an extent of parchment, of a size big enough to make a very pretty carpet for thy mother's sitting-room: soon after which the cause began. Mr. Wrangle's first evidence, to prove the detention of the mare, appeared in the shape of a knife-grinder, who told a tale which, to a simpleton like me, appeared as round as his own wheel, and as unvarnished as the hob-nailed shoe of the narrator.

And now it was, my dear Ambrose, that I had to admire a *vivâ voce* cross-examination, in the course of which it was made to appear that the aforesaid knife-grinder was not only present at the detention of the mare, but that he was also born in Jewin-street, Aldersgate-street; that his father was a man of dark complexion, and a potato merchant in Kent-street; his grandfather a porter in the India House; and that his daughter was the *chère amie* of an Irish officer at Truro, in Cornwall. Nay, so weak are the pillars of sophistry, when shaken by one of these Samsons in silk gowns, the grinder of scissors was at last fain to confess that his sister Molly enjoyed the sinecure office of laundress to an old Scotch lady of quality. All this family biog-

raphy would have been lost to the cause and to the world, if the suit had been in the Court of Chancery. The poor knife-grinder, with a head as giddy as his own wheel, contradicted himself twenty times, and the plaintiff was nonsuited. Hilary, too accustomed to the lottery of the law to look blank on the occasion, contented himself with damning the knife-grinder, and swearing that he would have at them again next term.

In our walk from the hall, Wrangle made inquiry after at least a dozen suits in which he was engaged, and was told of the last of them that the proceedings were in error. Ay, thought I, and so are the proceedings in all the rest. However, I said nothing, and we parted; Mr. Hilary shaking me by the hand, and saying he should be glad to see me in Chancery-lane.

From these specimens, Ambrose, thou mayest form some notion of Mr. Wrangle, who is delighted to dance through the courts of law to a tune, for every note of which he is sure to pay the piper. He who misses his mark as often as he hits it, is half his powder and shot out of pocket. This equilibrium of suits and nonsuits, (the plus and minus of law algebra,) balances a man like Mahomet in his leaden balloon. Throw the costs of suit into the scale, and poor Wrangle's coffers will kick the beam. Thus it appears that a litigious fellow in England resembles a young rustic in a barn, on his first introduction to a flail, with which he belabours his own ears, more than the ears that lie scattered around him, giving himself a good threshing, and the corn a bad one.

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#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF LONDON.

I need not tell thee, who wert born and wilt probably die on the banks of the Seine, that it is the foible of our countrymen to give mountainous names to mole-hill ob-

jects. Thou and I, my dear Ambrose, have often shaken our sides in sympathy, at the gasconade of Sterne's Parisian barber ; who, by way of recommending the buckle of a new wig to the intended purchaser, exclaimed, "You may immerse it in the ocean, and it will stand." The builders of Paris have given to certain enclosures, in and about that city, the imposing titles of *Campus Martius* and *Elysian Fields*; and yet I must confess to thee, in a whisper, that a Roman emperor would, during life, have felt himself and his army rather cramped in a drilling-ground like the one, and after death, with Virgil's hexameters yet floating in his memory, would have experienced something far short of eternal happiness in a retreat like the other.

The sponsors who superintended the baptism of London acted a more manly part. Those elegant public promenades towards the west, not to be equalled in Europe, are simply called The Parks ; whilst the squares and public buildings, in general, are known by the most simple and uninviting epithets, as though the builders had determined to bestow on those strangers who do not choose to visit them, the most unequivocal permission to go elsewhere. Their Chelsea Hospital is a noble structure, and might be called an palace ; but candour obliges me to add, that their St. James's Palace is an ignoble structure, and might be called an hospital. I was lately much struck, in my rambles through the city, with a magnificent Grecian building. I asked a young man in embroidered pantaloons, who was issuing from under the portico, its name, and he told me it was the India House. "You must be mistaken, Sir," answered I ; "this is no Indian pagoda, it is more like a Grecian temple."—"I cannot possibly be wrong," replied the youth of many seams, making me a bow, "for I am a clerk in it at a salary of one hundred pounds per annum."

The building, it must be confessed, whether Indian or Grecian, forcibly strikes the eye of a stranger, and, I have no doubt, would be a source of permanent admiration to any man, who, being honoured with an acquaint-



ance with a perruque-maker opposite, could command a view of it from the first floor. A stranger in the land, like myself, placed in the midst of Leadenhall Street, and elbowed by a deluge of people, could not raise his eyes without compromising the safety of his nose.

I was in the act of gazing at that structure, and admiring the allegorical figure of his ambi-dexterous majesty at the top, when a tawny vender of Italian images tilted his board, with its motley freight, against my shoulder, and in a moment thy Endymion lay sprawling in the mud, in unison with Bonaparte, Wesley, Belcher, a black poodle, and a green squirrel.

From the India House the transition is but short to the Mansion House, whose Egyptian hall is decorated with multitudes of stuffed mummies on the annual election of the Lord Mayor. This "laboured quarry above ground" was reared by an architect celebrated for making heavy churches and sprightly comedies—a sure way, in either case, to build for immortality. As to the celebrated Bank of England, it bears the appearance of a congress of stones, met, heads and tails, to congratulate each other on their escape from the perils of chaos. Talleyrand calls it a huge mausoleum, sacred to the memory of departed bullion; but as he is an interested witness, his testimony must be taken *cum grano salis*.

Having alluded to Sir John Vanbrugh's churches, allow me to enlarge upon that topic. The pious Queen Anne built I do not know how many of them, to give to all her good subjects of London an equal chance of reaching heaven; and, with a laudable partiality, scattered her steeples in such irregular masses, and such odd holes and corners, that an inhabitant of London may visit the altar twice in every Sunday throughout his life, without letting his neighbour know anything of the matter. If he be religious and ashamed to own it, (no uncommon character here,) and has no dislike to the discord of bell-clappers, he has only to sally forth on a Sunday morning, and after looking about him to see if the coast is clear, pop down the next blind alley, and it is ten to one he finds himself in a magnificent

Gothic church, at first inspired by a jig from the organ-loft, and afterwards exhorted by a guttural curate and a nasal clerk. Does not this remind thee of the Arabian Tales, where we sometimes read of a black slave, and a dark passage, leading the lover to a splendid saloon, adorned with emerald, houris, coffee, and wax candles?

Such was the religious benevolence of good Queen Anne, who, in the words of a cotemporary poet, seemed resolved to "do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame;" and I am led to believe that the fashion of building churches expired with that venerable lady. Not that I would have thee suppose the good people of this city to be devoid of all clerical conveniences. On the contrary, there are chapels of ease, and Quaker, Presbyterian, and Methodist meetings, enough in all conscience: but none of these are possessed of that old-fashioned ornament, a steeple.

The celebrated John Bunyan is said to have styled that excrescence "the devil's extinguisher to put out the taper of true faith;" and from so seldom finding it on modern houses of religion, I am led to suppose the opinion prevalent at this day. For my own part, I feel a sort of penchant for a steeple. It often guides the pilgrim in his progress through woody and perplexed districts, and I think (with all deference to the author of the Pilgrim's Progress) that it will not much impede his journey to another world.

A stranger who enters London from the county of Surrey finds himself, before he reaches the turnpike in St. George's Fields, near a Methodist chapel, on which these words, "The House of God," are inscribed in large characters. If he be such an irreligious Levite as to slight this intimation, and crosses over the way to pursue his journey to the metropolis, he finds, on passing the turnpike, an octagon chapel on the right, frowning defiance on the Royal Circus opposite, and warning stray souls not to prefer stage to pulpit pantomime. I am credibly informed that the founder of this tenement, who is a man of education and some humour, intends to

invite classical countrymen to his conventicle, by inscribing the following lines from Virgil on the gates of the aforesaid turnpike :—

“Hic locus est, partes ubi se via findit in ambas:  
*Dextera*, quæ Ditis magni sub mœnia tendit;  
 Hâc iter Elysium nobis: et *læva* malorum  
 Exercet pœnas, et ad impia Tartara mittit.”\*

Do not, my dear Ambrose, contract thy sable brows, and cry “nonsense” at these irregular remarks, for they serve to beguile the solitude to which my inability to keep pace with the expensive amusements of this great city sometimes condemns me. A lank purse is an evil, but, in my opinion, a lank countenance is a greater. Moreover, I am but an insignificant performer in the seven act farce of life: then why shouldst thou wish to make me dance in the fetters of Aristotle? The unities of time and place have been so sadly violated in the history of thy banished friend, that surely he may be permitted now and then to overlook them in his letters.

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#### AN ENGLISH DINNER PARTY.

In that happy union of instruments which produces the harmony of life, I now begin to look upon the trumpet of Fame as a mere “tinkling cymbal;” and I also begin to find that, in the secret of happiness, the English are not quite such adepts as the French. It is true the wealth of the former gives them corn, wine, and oil, in abundance; but as, according to the schoolmen,

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\* 'Tis here, in different paths, the way divides;  
 The right to fields Elysian safely guides;  
 The left to that unhappy region tends,  
 Which to the depth of Tartarus descends—  
 The seat of night profound and punish'd fiends.

DRYDEN.

nothing can be received otherwise than in proportion to the recipient, we must take into account the indigestive stomachs into which the aforesaid corn, wine, and oil, are so frequently poured. Nine Frenchmen in ten dance from morning to night to no other tune than black bread, onion soup, and salad; the same proportion of Englishmen fret themselves to suicide over the fumes of venison and mock turtle.

Sir Charles Meagrim did me the honour to notice me at Lady V——'s *déjeûner*: he understood that I was an emigrant who had snatched a small pittance from the maw of the revolution, and concluded that I must be in a fit state of mind to condole with him, who was suffering with the accumulated pressure of birth, health, a beautiful wife, and a landed property of seven thousand pounds per annum. The worthy baronet gave me a seat in his curricule, and entertained me all the way from Chiswick to London with a history of his own grievances.

"My dear sir," said he, with a look of despondence, "you don't know what a Briton endures. In this very carriage I drove last Saturday to dine with Tom Tipple at Barnes Terrace; and, would you believe it? on my way thither I was blinded with dust, and on my return soaked with rain."

"Doubtless," answered I, "the former produced an ophthalmia, and the latter a sore throat."

"Why no," replied the baronet, "not so bad as that."

"Then," rejoined I, "your misfortune was not of that terrific magnitude I imagined. If you had, like me, endured"—

I was about to sing my own dirge, when we arrived at the corner of Panton Street. I alighted at this place, and the worthy baronet, having invited me to dinner on the following Monday, proceeded to his abode in Baker Street.

On the appointed afternoon, I was ushered through a lane of lackeys to Sir Charles's drawing-room, where I was graciously received by the handsome Lady Mea-

grim, at whose side sat a young female of interesting and fashionable appearance. In about half an hour the dinner party had assembled, consisting of a young man of fashion, with grey eyes and a pimpled face, two slender officers of the guards, whose red doublets and white faces brought to my memory the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and an old swearing sea captain, with nothing polished about him except his wooden leg.

At dinner I was fortunate enough to be seated next to the young lady whose first appearance had so interested me, and in her agreeable conversation found a celestial reward for the martyrdom of being obliged to swallow large portions of madeira every second minute. The dinner was superb, and from the accurate knowledge of cookery displayed by Sir Charles and the two officers, I had little doubt of their having superintended the preparation of it in the kitchen. I can assure thee, that our Parisian *gourmands* are mere hermits to the epicures of London. The sea captain, in an interval, (made *lucid* by a glass of sparkling champagne,) cast his eyes towards me, and exclaimed, "Mounseer Endymion, I do suppose this a *maigre* day with you, because Sir Charles has no frogs at table."

"My dear Endymion," said Sir Charles, "upon my soul I beg your pardon—I quite forgot.—Lady Meagrim, my dear, how could you be so careless? If we had but thought of it on our return from Greenwich, we might have laid in a stock at Tower ditch."

"My dear sir," answered I, blushing through my dark beard, like Sir Solomon in the song, "frogs are not to my taste. If you had as many as king Pharaoh, I could not touch one."

"Talking of Faro," squeaked the emaciated ensign on my right, "what do you think I won at lady Shuffle's last night?"

"What do you think I lost?" vociferated the leader of squadrons.

"Capital venison, 'pon my soul!" cried the youth with grey eyes.

"What an infernal shower!" ejaculated the baronet, as the rain pattered against his plate glass.

"Red or white," answered the sea captain.

With these cross volleys, peculiar to the English, was the conversation conducted for some time, each man shutting his eyes to his neighbour's attacks, and discharging his piece at random, like Gil Blas among the robbers.

When the cloth was removed, all the male eyes, except those of thy Endymion, began to sparkle in unison with the half-pint glasses which were arranged on the table for the reception of claret. I had soon the mortification to observe Sir Charles cast a significant glance at his lady, who rose from the table, and, with her lovely associate, quitted the room.

Bumpers and politics were now the order of the night; claret became as plentiful as water, sense and amusement as scarce as liqueurs, and all the conversation, by degrees, centered in hunting and contested elections. My fate has too nearly resembled that of Actæon to allow me much pleasure from the former topic; my ignorance of borough mysteries rendered me unequal to the latter.

Luckily, at this period, a contest of the fist, entered into in the street, by a Bermondsey tanner and a Goswell-street drayman, drew every man from the table. Even Bacchus is, in this town, unable to withstand Gully, and, in the general sympathy created by the contest, I withdrew unperceived.

On my joining Lady Meagrim, she expressed surprise as well as pleasure at seeing me so soon. "Had you lived in Paris, madam," said I, "where the myrtle is more fashionable than the vine, you would not have expressed wonder at so ordinary an occurrence."

The conversation I now enjoyed with this amiable and spouse-neglected woman, is not to be spoilt by a pen like mine. Her lovely friend gained every moment on my affections, and was in the very act of giving new charms to that impressive air, "O Giove onnipotente," in "Il Ratto di Proserpina," when, on casting my eyes

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downward upon a hand that emulated in whiteness the ivory over which it moved, I had the mortification to perceive—a wedding-ring! Instantly my eyes grew dim, the shade of Hymen in his saffron robe rose between me and the object of my affections, and poor Cupid found that his labour had been thrown away.

Alas, poor Endymion! it was always thus—looking one way and rowing another—steady topsails, and shifting ballast! But what was it to me, whether married or unmarried? Who ever saw a scarecrow like me in the garden of Eden? I am now resolved to learn wisdom. I will, like these islanders, henceforth weigh all proffered pleasures in the scales of philosophy,—I will analyse everything, and be pleased with—nothing.

## MISCELLANIES IN PROSE.

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### THE TWO DINING-ROOMS.

UP to the 24th day of December, 1825, there was no house in London (at least not one with whose interior I am acquainted) that could vie in pleasantness of dinner-parties with George Talbot's. The mansion, not a hundred miles from a street branching from Park-lane, was one of those numerous edifices in that neighbourhood that have been successively tenanted by widows, ancient maidens, and others of that stamp, whose object in life it is to make a great show with little means. Hence a bow was thrown out of the back drawing-room window so as to overshadow the dwarf dining-room below, and at the same time to command a sidelong view of Lord Grosvenor's trees, together with part of the back front of his lordship's house. Upon this back front the substitution of new iron palisades for an old brick wall has recently enabled the public to sit in judgment: and I think their sittings need not to be of an equal length with that of the inquest on the Brunswick Theatre to enable them to deliver their verdict. The exterior of the picture-gallery ought to be a deodand.

In tenements of a stamp similar to that of George Talbot, in proportion as the drawing-rooms are expanded, the dining-room is pinched. Widows and ancient maidens count more upon silver tea-spoons than upon silver dining-forks. In fact, George Talbot could not well accommodate more than eight at dinner. This circumstance was to him a source of constant lamentation.



I have seen him, at least twenty times, sorrowfully measuring the dimensions of the room with his own expanded arms. "I am just six feet high," would George say upon these occasions, "and a well-made man can exactly stretch his own height, from the tips of his two fore-fingers." George, who was a well-made man in his own esteem (I should like to see the man who is not) would, thereupon, kick three or four comfortable red morocco chairs from their station against the stucco, and would go on measuring with his nose against the wall, bidding his wife note the dimensions of the apartment, like Figaro and Susanna in Mozart's opening duet, "Six, that's one stretch; twelve, that's two; eighteen, that's three. (My dear, do take away the skreen; it's always in my way;) well, well,—never mind, I'll measure the next with my fingers." The rest measured, according to George's calculation, just eighteen inches more. So that, with a sigh, George would ejaculate, "There, I told you so. It's only eighteen feet eighteen inches long—allowing for the dwarf cupboard in the recess, it is nineteen feet six inches—call it twenty feet at the outside."

Having thus proved, mathematically, that the apartment did not exceed twenty feet in length, Talbot would next set himself sorrowfully to work to delineate its breadth. This, after stretching himself in a similar manner, roasting his knees at the fireplace, and inhaling at his nostrils the dust from the cocked-hat of a little bronze Bonaparte on the mantelpiece, was proved not to exceed sixteen feet. Twenty by sixteen; it was lamentable: he ought to apologise for inviting me to take my dinner in such an apartment; but it could not at present be helped: his lease would fall in soon, and then, if he and his landlord could agree upon terms, he would extend the apartment into the garden, and show me a dining-room as it should be.

George Talbot is a gentleman by birth, a man of talents by nature, and a scholar by art. He has, moreover, the knack of getting the best society at his table. There were generally two dummies, myself and another;

for talkers without listeners would be like the Savoyard and his monkey without an audience. In this humble dining-room, twenty feet by sixteen, I have set down to dinner with Sir James Mackintosh, Rogers, William Spencer, and Jekyll, with an occasional intermixture of Luttrell, Moore, and Sidney Smith. After this enumeration, it would be superfluous to add that no pleasanter dinners were to be met with within the Bills of Mortality. In fact, they were proverbial. "Am I to meet you at the *Spotted Dog* next Wednesday?" would William Spencer say, in his careless jocose way, (a nickname of his for our host, *quasi* Talbot,) and the question was a prelude to festivity.

Still George Talbot was not satisfied. He could not deny that everything went off well: he must confess it did. "Sidney Smith talked," would he say to me, "and you held your tongue: all this was as it should be: nothing could be more proper and agreeable. But, notwithstanding, I wish the dining-room were a few feet longer and wider. Well, well, the lease will soon fall in, and then," &c. &c. *la-capo*-ing from "landlord" to "room as it should be."

Thus it habitually fared not only with me but my betters. He would take Spencer aside, and pour similar griefs into his ear. Moore had to sympathise with him on the same score. Jekyll recommended four elastic walls for that night only, by particular desire; and Sidney Smith reminded him of the consolation of Diogenes. The last ejaculation from George, to which I was an ear-witness, occurred in the spring of 1825. He had met a man, whom I knew to be a dummy, by his open mouth, and was inviting him, interchangeably, to dinner. The north-east wind wafted into my ear the words "Only accommodate eight," whereupon I turned round the corner of New-street, Spring-gardens, to avoid the conclusion of the sentence.

At Christmas, 1825, the old lease expired, and George bargained with his landlord for a renewed one for twenty-one years, he the said George consenting to build a new room on the basement floor, the length thereof to be

thirty-five feet at the least, and the breadth twenty-five feet at the least. George brought me, with an air of great triumph, the "document," as he called it, signed and sealed. It consisted of three skins of parchment, and I was condemned to hear him read the whole of it, not omitting cellars, sollars, sinks, gutters, and wye-draughts, together with the schedule of fixtures.

"This bodes us no good," said Spencer one morning as, at an accidental rencontre, we looked through the iron railings and saw the new dining-room, yet an infant skeleton, projecting its awful bowed front into the back garden of the edifice. "The *Spotted Dog* will be over-kennelled—mark my words, he will invite the *genus omne* from Harewood-place to Bryanstone-square, and his dinners will be like other people's."

While we were communing, Talbot joined us. This is a catastrophe which I always deplore. Never look at improvements in the presence of the improver. If you do, exit candid criticism, and enter cuckoo-noted eulogium. George, accordingly, paraded us over rafters guiltless of floors, picking our paces as though we were proving our chastity amid red-hot ploughshares; whilst he himself stretched his arms, in his wonted manner, along the naked walls, anointing the tip of his nose with moist mortar, and exclaiming, "Six, twelve, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-six—no, not quite—yes it is: thirty-six feet four inches;—and now for the breadth." The latter was ascertained to be twenty-six feet: and George exclaimed, with an air like that of a man who has achieved a battle of Waterloo, "Now I shall be able to give a dinner."

I had the honour to be invited to the very first dinner that was given in the new apartment. Jekyll, Rogers, and Spencer were of the party. "Very good milk," said I to myself, "but I dread the inundation of water." Accordingly the knocker began to reverberate with sounds that actually startled the lean courser of a solitary dandy who was yet braving the north-easter in Hyde-park, although all sober Christians had long since ridden home to dress. Then came Lord and Lady Walross—

Mrs. and the two Misses Stubbs—the Wentworths—Tom Asgill in tight pantaloons—Mr. and Mrs. Wood, or Hood, or Gude, I never could ascertain which—there was also a fat red-faced Major Meredith,—and a tall man in blue, with a cork leg! In short, we were gathered together to the number of twenty-one. Talbot, full of glee at the immense army which he had brought into the field, handed down Lady Walross, on the announcement of dinner; and I brought up the rear with the junior Miss Stubbs.

I should have observed, that while Talbot could only accommodate eight, he had eight as comfortable morocco chairs as man could wish to sit upon. These were now discarded in order to accommodate twenty-two, and a set of miserable tottering narrow cane-backed concerns were substituted, which I can only compare to those tall unhappy perpendicular articles, upon which (Orpheus alone knows why) growing girls are condemned to sit at the piano. I tried to preserve my balance, and succeeded, but not until I had fallen into the lap of Mrs. Stubbs; while Mr. Wood, or Hood, or Gude, paid a similar compliment to the tall man in blue with the cork leg.

How the dinner went off I need not say. There was a confused talk about turbot, Madame Pasta, champagne, Zuchelli, hock, Rossini, Sir Walter Scott, brown bread, ice, and the new buildings in the Regent's-park; but as for Jekyll, Rogers, and Spencer, they might as well have been immured in the Catacombs.

This has now happened, to my experimental knowledge, half-a-dozen times with the same result. The best part of the joke, or rather the worst part of the tragedy, is, that George Talbot regularly finds the "quantum mutatus" of the concern. He will repeatedly say:—"Moore shines most in a small party: Jekyll ought to lead in a select few; Spencer was overtalked by that stupid Lord Walross, with his everlasting improvements at Rosehill-park. Twenty-two is too many for them," &c. &c.; and yet he regularly falls again into the same wilful error.

For myself, dummy as I am, I must say, that unless Talbot contracts the dimensions of his eating-room, as Elliston did those of Drury Lane theatre, I don't care how seldom I repeat my visits.

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#### MISS POPE—A PORTRAIT.

When I first saw Miss Pope, she was performing Mrs. Candour in the *School for Scandal*. Her fellow-labourers in the theatrical vineyard were Miss Farren as Lady Teazle, and King as Sir Peter; Parsons and Dodd performed Crabtree and Backbite; Baddeley personated Moses; Smith, Charles; and John Palmer, Joseph. Here was a galaxy which the dramatic hemisphere will not again present in one night. I have heard people wonder why the good actors in our days will not pull together in one piece, as they did when the *School for Scandal* first came out: meaning, I presume, as they habitually did at that period. I take the liberty to doubt the fact.

If the *School for Scandal* had been brought to the Theatre by "some starved hackney sonneteer or me," Parsons would not have acted Crabtree, and Dodd would have "fined" rather than perform Backbite. I even doubt whether Baddeley would have taken to the Jew. Miss Pope would unquestionably have demurred about Mrs. Candour. Not that those parts are bad ones in themselves, but there is too great an interval between the first and last appearance of the "scandalous club." They get out of the sight, and consequently out of the mind, of the audience. Moreover (which is an inexpressible sin in the perception of a player) there are better parts in the play. Why then, it may be asked, did those eminent performers act these characters? I answer, because the play was written by a manager. When, many years afterwards, Miss Pope attended the rehearsal of Frederick Reynolds's play,

"The Will," I beheld her (for the first and last time I ever witnessed it) a little out of humour. "O, Mr. Reynolds," exclaimed the lady, turning over the leaves of her manuscript, "this is a very bad part." "Very, Ma'am," was the answer; "but bad as it is, I can't make it better." Now, be it remembered, that Reynolds was not a manager, and moreover, that he was not a regular writer for Drury-lane Theatre. His movements thither were eccentric. The Will, Cheap Living, and The Caravan, were the only wares he ever carried to that market. This may account for the lady's petulance, and may perhaps excuse it.

Nicknames are often given at hazard. Miss Pope's private alias, in certain theatrical circles, was Mrs. Candour; originating partly from her playing that part, and partly from her readiness to undertake the defence of any person who happened to be run down. I owe it to truth to declare my conviction that, in adopting that course, not a particle of irony or sarcasm was mingled with her encomiums. I never heard her speak ill of any human being. This, in a theatre, where there is so much ill, and so many people disposed to speak it, is surely no faint praise. I have sometimes been even exasperated by her benevolence. In cases of the most open delinquency, I could never entice her into indignation. "I adore my profession," I have heard her say more than once. She might, therefore, think it policy, at all events, to uphold the professors, in the same way as the sex uphold each other in the article of marriage. You never can prevail upon female A to admit that female B has become an old maid from want of offers. It is constantly a matter of choice. She has bad health: she was attached to a young man who died at Monmouth: she is devoted to her sister's children: or she won't quit her father. Anything rather than the fact.

I saw Miss Pope, for the second time, in the year 1790, in the character of Flippanta, in Sir John Vanbrugh's licentious comedy, The Confederacy. Miss Farren was the City Wife, Clarissa; Moody, the husband; John Palmer, the Dick Amlet; John Bannister,

the roguish servant Brisk ; and Mrs. Jordan, the Corinna. The last-mentioned part was formerly, however, personated by Miss Pope : witness the encomium of Churchill in the *Rosciad*.

“With all the native vigour of sixteen,  
Among the merry troops conspicuous seen,  
See lively Pope advance in jig and trip,  
Corinna, Cherry, Honeycomb, and Snip.  
Not without art, but yet to nature true,  
She charms the town with humour just yet new.  
Cheer’d by her promise, we the less deplore  
The fatal time when Clive shall be no more.”

This poem was published in the year 1761 ; and when “the fatal time” which it prognosticated had arrived, Miss Pope wrote Poor Kitty Clive’s Epitaph. It may be seen on a mural tablet in Twickenham churchyard, commencing as follows :—

“Clive’s blameless life this tablet shall proclaim.”

“She was one of my earliest and best friends,” said Miss Pope, “I usually spent a month with her during the summer recess, at her cottage adjoining to Horace Walpole’s villa at Strawberry-hill. One fine morning I set off in the Twickenham passage-boat to pay her a visit. When we came to Vauxhall, I took out a book and began to read.” “Oh, Ma’am,” said one of the watermen, “I hoped we were to have the pleasure of hearing you talk.” “I took the hint,” added the benevolent lady, “and put up my book.” She asked me if I remembered Horace Walpole. I could only say, as Pope said of Dryden, “*Virgilium tantum vidi*.” The only time I ever beheld him was when I went, about the year 1793, in Undy’s passage-boat to Twickenham. He was standing upon the lawn in front of his house. “He *could* be very pleasant,” said Miss Pope. “He often came to drink tea with us at Mrs. Clive’s cottage ; and he *could* be very unpleasant.” “In what way ?” said I. “O, very snarling and sarcastic,” was the answer.

When young people look at old people, they find a

great difficulty in imagining that the latter were formerly as young as themselves. When I first became acquainted with the lady in question, namely, about the year 1807, she had passed her grand climacteric, and was consequently gifted with a bulky person, and a duplicity of chin. "Is it possible," said I to myself, "that this old woman could ever have verified Churchill's assertion 'Native vigour of sixteen?' Ridiculous!" And yet the matter is mathematically a fact: nay more, Miss Pope was once in love! I had "the soft confession" from her own lips; and as I was not sworn to secrecy, and the lady has long since joined the Capulets, the reader shall have it too.

The scene of the acknowledgment lay in Miss Pope's back drawing-room, at her house in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn Fields, situate within two doors of the Freemasons' Tavern, on the Lincoln's-inn Fields side. She had then lived there for a period of forty years. The room was hung round with portraits of people who had been gathered to their fathers half a century before. "Who is this, Madam?" said I, pointing to a three-quarters as large as life. "That is the celebrated Mrs. Oldfield," answered Miss Pope. I stood up to look at that once high-prized beauty, and repeated from Pope's Imitation of Horace's Second Satire, (I firmly believe the imitation to be his, though he denied it,)

"The tribe of templers, players, apothecaries,  
Pimps, poets, wits, Lord Fannys, Lady Marys,  
And all the court in tears, and half the town,  
Lament dear charming Oldfield dead and gone.  
Engaging Oldfield! who with grace and ease  
Could join the Arts to ruin and to please."

"Ah, well, we must not believe all that Pope said of her," answered the companion of Kitty Clive. "See what a fine marked tragic brow she has! I myself believe she was a very good woman." "And who is that little child upon whose head her right hand rests?" inquired I. "Did you never see," answered the lady, "a very old man walking about town named General



Churchill?" "I have." "Well, that child is he!" Here was another surprise to my then juvenile imagination. General Churchill, aged eighty, once a little boy in school-days. Miracles will never cease! In the hurry of business I quite omitted to ask Miss Pope how "a very good woman," named Oldfield, could have a son named Churchill.

Over the sofa hung an engraved likeness of a gentleman, whose tremendous quantum of hair was buckled up behind like the tails of my old maiden aunt Leonora's crinolines. "That is Baron Newnham, the present Earl of Harcourt," said the owner of the mansion. I bowed acquiescence. "And pray who is this?" said I, turning to a very gentleman in pearl-coloured dittos, with a decent cocked-hat under his arm. "Oh, that," said he, with a hesitating sort of a flurry, "that is Mr. Holland." I thought it rather odd that Holland should be the only Mister of the party: and I said to myself as I bowed and when he heard that Aimwell had gone to church, "that looks suspicious."

I gradually obtained the contents of the old lady's letter upon the subject of the said Holland, who, as the reader will find on consulting Tom Davies's *Life of Garrick*, was an actor of celebrity in his day. The lady's conversation having been now silenced by sewing, Mrs. Clive drew from a scented cambric handkerchief, Miss Pope confessed her early love and her early disappointment. "Mr. Holland and myself," said the fair sexagennary, "were mutually attached. I had reason to expect that he would soon make me an offer of his hand. Mr. Garrick, however, was a second Mister, but this proved false; the posthumous awe inspired by the shade of a manager and sole proprietor." "Mr. Garrick warned me of his levities and his gallantries; but I had read that a reformed rake makes the best husband, and I hoped that I should find it to be so. One day I went to visit Mrs. Clive in the Richmond coach. The coach stopped to halt at Mortlake, when, whom should I see so me rapidly in a post-chaise but Mr. Holland, in company with a lady." I could not discern who the lady

was ; but I felt a pang of jealousy which kept me silent for the rest of the journey. I got out of the coach at the King's Head, near the present bridge, and, with my little wicker basket in my hand, I set off to walk along Twickenham meadows to Strawberry Hill. When I came opposite the Eel-pie Island, I saw the same parties in a boat together ; and I then discovered that Mr. Holland's companion was the notorious Mrs. Baddeley. He looked confused when he saw me, and tried to row across to the Richmond side ; but the weeds prevented him. I met him on the Tuesday following at a rehearsal. He had done wrong, and he knew it ; but he tried to veil his degradation by an air of *hauteur*. I was as proud as he ; and from that time we never exchanged a word. He afterwards made love to this, that, and t'other woman ; but I have reason to know that he never was really happy." Here the old lady wiped away a tear, which the remembrance of what happened forty years before had caused to trickle down her cheek.

I cannot despatch this fickle Mr. Holland without relating an anecdote in which he was posthumously concerned. I sat in the pit of Drury Lane Theatre one evening about twenty years ago, when one of Shakespeare's historical plays was performed, embracing "all the strength of the house," accompanied by the usual portion of its weakness. Two worthies sat within ear-shot of me, between whom an exchange of play-bills produced a temporary intimacy. They conversed to the following effect :—"Do you often come here, sir ?" "Yes, sir, now and then. I see by this bill that almost all their actors are engaged." "Yes, sir." "Actors live to a great age, sir." "Yes, sir, some of them." "Now here, sir," said the first speaker, "here, sir, is Holland : he was an actor, sir, in Garrick's time, and yet we have him in the bill for to-night." "True, sir," answered the second speaker, "and here is another of the Garrick school—Mr. Powell : he's in the bill too ; he must be no chicken by this time." I thought at the moment of proving to both speakers, as Partridge says, "that this Mr. Jones was not that Mr. Jones," and that

of the two Garrick contemporaries whom they had named, the one, if living, would be now ninety-six years of age, and the other a hundred and four. But I left them in the thick of their error. People in the pit of Drury Lane "conceive better than they combine."

The Widow Racket in Mrs. Cowley's "Belle's Stratagem" was one of Miss Pope's best parts. It is difficult to describe action in words. Miss Pope's usual manner of exhibiting piquant carelessness consisted in tossing her head from right to left, and striking the palm of each hand with the back of its fellow, at the same moment casting her eyes upward with an air of *nonchalance*. Miss Mellon, who came after her, came nearest to her in this manner; but still it was "*haud passibus æquis*."

One morning, on turning the corner of Great Queen Street, with the intention of making a visit, I beheld the carriage of Lord Harcourt, (his lordship's official vehicle as Master of the Horse to the Queen,) standing at the door. The chariot was blood-red, the horses were coal-black, and the coachman and footman were in a complete armour of gold lace. Venturing in was out of the question; so I passed the door, and loitered in front of a broker's shop about seven doors nearer to Lincol's-inn Fields, and close abutting upon the chapel.

In a few minutes the royal carriage departed, and I knocked at the door. I walked upstairs, and on entering the drawing-room, I found Miss Pope still in the attitude of graceful deference in which his lordship had left her. Her hands were crossed upon her stomach, and her eyes were modestly bent towards the earth. She still felt the influence of the patrician deity, although he had corporeally ceased to fill the vacant blue-damask arm-chair, which fronted her on the opposite side of the fire-place.

I attended the last appearance of this estimable woman in public. It was on the 26th of May, 1808; the character was Deborah Dowlas, in the "Heir at Law." A week before, she had talked with me about the manner in which she should dress the character,

and I answered, In black bombazcen. Miss Pope stared ; but I proved to her that not only Deborah Dowlas, but all the rest of the dramatis personæ, ought, properly speaking, to assume suits of sable. "Attend," said I, while her sister Susan counted them up on her fingers. "All the Dowlasses should wear black as relatives of the deceased Lord Duberly. Henry Moreland should do the same as his son ; and Steadfast as a friend of the family. Clerical custom requires Doctor Pangloss to be attired in black. Caroline Dormer has recently lost her father, and so have Zekiel and Cicely Homespun : Caroline Dormer's first servant Kenrick," added I, "must of course do as his mistress does : and this makes up the whole of the party."

Susan, who was a matter-of-fact personage, thought me right ; but Miss Pope, notwithstanding, was not "fondly overcome" by my argument, but dressed Deborah Dowlas as her predecessors had done. This leave-taking was in character and in rhyme, both of which I thought objectionable. The character, Audrey, that of a female fool, should, at all events, not have been assumed. The last line of the farewell address still dwells in my memory. "And now poor Audrey bids you all farewell." The example of Miss Pope's friend and patron, Garrick, in a similar situation, might have taught her better. He expressed himself as follows :—"The jingle of rhyme and the language of fiction, would but ill suit my present feelings. This is to me a very awful moment ; it is no less than parting for ever with those from whom I have received the greatest kindness and favours, and upon the spot where that kindness and those favours were enjoyed." This was as it should be.

Miss Pope ended her days in a house in Newman-street. I felt grieved when she quitted Queen-street, and so I believe did she. The pictures had in a measure grown to the walls ; and though the mansion was rather too near to the Freemasons' Tavern, whence, on a summer evening when windows are per force kept open, the sounds of "Prosperity to the deaf and dumb chari-

ty," sent forth a corresponding clatter of glasses, which made every body in Miss Pope's back drawing-room, for the moment, fit objects of that benevolent institution; still a residence of forty years and upwards is not to be parted from without regret.

Miss Pope gave an evening party at her new residence, about a twelvemonth after her retreat from the stage, at which, I remember, the late Mr. Justice Grose was present, as well as a great number of other highly respectable persons of either sex; many of them, as I then learned, from the purlieus of St. James's Palace. Here I beheld her in society for the last time. She shortly afterwards was attacked by a stupor of the brain: and this once lively and amiable woman, who had entertained me repeatedly with anecdotes of people of note in her earlier days, sat quietly and calmly in an arm-chair by the fire-side, patting the head of her poodle-dog, and smiling at what passed in conversation, without being at all conscious of the meaning of what was uttered.

Upon a candid review of my pursuits and feelings at the period above described, it appears to me that I was a much happier man then than I now am. Upon recollection I find that, about that time Lewis the comedian let me, by anticipation, into the cause of this. We were walking homeward from the Keep-the-line club, then held at the British coffee-house. Lewis asked me my age, and I answered "thirty." "Stick to that, my dear boy," said the veteran, "and you will do. I myself was thirty once. I was fool enough to let it go by; and I have regretted it ever since."

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#### CIVIC SPORTS.—NO. I.

(Extracted from the Journal of Simon Swandown.)

#### *Shooting.*

"The boy thus, when his sparrow's flown,  
The bird in silence eyes."

GAY.

Monday, Sept. 1, 9 A. M.—Took down from back attic

my legacy gun, so called because it became mine under the will of Sir Diggory Drysalt, my maternal uncle. Used by him, with tremendous effect, when a grenadier in Colonel Birch's first Loyal London, in the battles of Shad Thames and Primrose-hill. Thought it prudent to ascertain the death of this Gunpowder Percy: drew out the ramrod, and thrust it down the barrel; felt a soft substance at bottom, and trembled; screwed up my courage and the soft substance, and found the latter to be a doll's pincushion, probably pushed in by little Sally. Borrowed Bob's duster and Molly's scouring-paper, and rubbed off the rust. Looked about for a game-bag, and luckily alighted upon my uncle's haversack, in which I moreover found seventeen old cartridges. Put on my shooting-dress, viz. my white hat, my stone-blue coat and black velvet collar, my white Marcella waistcoat, my India dimitry under ditto, my nankeen trousers, and my ditto gaiters, not forgetting my military boots and brass spurs. Jammed down ramrod till it rang again, to the great terror of Mrs. Swandown, of whom I took leave, singing—

“Adieu, adieu, my only life,  
My honour calls me from thee.”

Set off, in high spirits, to meet Jack Juniper, Kit Cursitor, and Tom Tiffany, by appointment, at half-past nine, at the Cumberland Arms, opposite St. Luke's Hospital, in the City Road. Saw a poll-parrot at a window in Carpenter's Buildings: longed for shot, but housemaid too sharp. Terrier puppy barked at a bedstead in Broker's Row: looked round, and found that she had made a point at a bultinch—cocked and levelled, but broker kept walking to and fro. Arrived at place of appointment without seeing any more game. Found Jack Juniper and Kit Cursitor discussing a plate of biscuits and a couple of glasses of brandy and water. Waited twenty minutes for Tom Tiffany; Jack, in the meanwhile, to pass the time, said he would play “Water parted” with his finger upon the rim of the rummer: could not catch the tune, probably because it was all in

one note. Examined our pieces: Kit's wanted a flint, and Jack's lock too rusty to go, though he pulled till he nearly sprained his fore-finger. Borrowed some oil, with three wasps in it, of the barmaid, and got a flint from a bald pavier in the road. Rang the bell to pay, when who should turn up but Tom Tiffany, in high dudgeon: back up, like the half-moon at Lower Holloway. Told us his brother Sam had walked off with the family fowling-piece across Shoulder of Mutton Fields, to slaughter snipes in Hackney Brook. Asked landlord if he could lend us a gun, but he had nothing but a horse-pistol. Hobson's choice, so Tom had nothing to do but to take it. Too short to bring down pheasants, but quite long enough to do for the little birds.

10 A. M.—Marched up the City Road singing—

“By dawn to the downs we repair.”

Looked sharp to the right and left, and saw a hen and two chickens pecking under a wheel-barrow on the roadside. Jack Juniper seized the three dogs by the collar, that they might not run in and frighten the game. Kit and Tom stole upon tiptoe to within six yards of the barrow, when the Tally-ho Paddington coach sent hen and chickens scampering into a front garden in Pleasant Row. Swore that Tally-ho should never see another eighteen-pence of my money. Halted to rest ourselves upon the bridge on the Regent's Canal. Looked over the parapet, and pointed our guns downwards to nab the sea-gulls as they came through the arch. Saw something red steal out: took it for a pheasant, and cocked: proved to be a bargeman's cap: grounded arms again, and saw him steer his vessel into a sort of water pound. Asked baker's boy about it: boy said it was in the lock, and that the bank on the other side was the key. Threatened to shoot him, if he gave me any more of his sauce. Kept an eye on barge, and saw it begin to sink. Wondered at the coolness of the Father Red-cap, who walked from stem to stem, smoking his pipe as if nothing was the matter. Kit Cursitor said they had scuttled it on purpose to chouse the underwriters, and that he had

known the captain of a Dutch schooner hanged for similar practices. Kit talked of advising the underwriters to defend the action, and pay the premium into court; when lo and behold the barge took a lower level, and slid off through the farther water-gate. Strolled on to Saddler's Wells, and halted at a lamp-post to read play-bills. Betted Jack Juniper that he would not hit the words "Water fiend" at ten yards off:—fired, and lodged two shots in the W. Stood for ten minutes looking into the New River, and counting the straws that floated down it, with now and then a child's paper-boat by way of a change. Tom Tiffany chucked a boy's hoop-stick into the stream—black poodle jumped in after it, and brought it out, wagging his tail—shook his coat, and splashed my nankeens:—thought of calling Tom to account for it, but did not like the looks of his horse-pistol.

11 A. M.—Pushed our guns under an old woman's wheelbarrow, and started a Tom cat—game made for Pentonville, we following—fired my piece, and brought him down in the chapel-yard—looked about for churchwarden to borrow keys—luckily, Deputy Dewlap's funeral just then entered at south gate: followed in the wake of mourners, picked up cat, and popped him into Cursitor's blue bag. Trotted on to Islington, swerved to the right, and entered fields at the back of Canonbury-house: saw five strange-looking birds trying to hide themselves in a glass case. All four fired: Tom's pistol flashed in the pan, but the guns went off: down went the birds, and up ran a tall fellow in a blue apron, swearing that we should pay for shooting his stuffed birds. Found to our surprise that they were dead before we came near them. Man in blue apron asked for our license, but Lawyer Kit gave it as his opinion that none was legally requisite to shoot a dead bird. Subscribed for a purse of nine and sixpence to quiet the proprietor, and resolved to be more cautious in future.

12 M.—Strolled up Highbury-place, wondering at the beauty of the gentlemen's seats on our right, which lay so thick that they could not push a brick between: charmingly contiguous to the city: nothing wanting but



a speaking-trumpet to ask the news at Batson's. Heard a rumbling in our rear: looked round, and beheld the Highbury coach, which stopped alongside of us, and let loose a woman from the inside, and a boy from the box. Woman with luggage enough to stop the Barnet van. Saw her give a canary-bird in charge to the housemaid: loitered about premises, and in about two minutes saw the cage stowed on the dresser of the kitchen: peeped down area: half-cocked uncle's legacy, but could not get rid of confounded cook chopping parsley in the window. Scrambled over five-barred gate to join my companions, who had made a short cut for Holloway: obstructed by a dry ditch; took a run to leap it; forgot my spurs, which caught in each other, and sent me on my hands and knees on the opposite side of the gap. Piece went off in my fall, and killed a duck. Crammed the defunct into my haversack, and came up with my cronies close to the turnpike. They took the pathway, but I followed the Bedford coach through the gate. Stopped by gatekeeper, who demanded three half-pence: would not pay, and referred it to Lawyer Kit, who gave it in favour of gatekeeper, pointing to the board upon which rate of tolls was printed, viz. "For every horse, mule, or ass, three half-pence." Tossed down the coppers, and walked on. Halted at corner of Duval's Lane: drove of geese: called a council of war: Jack Juniper offered the driver two shillings to let him fire among the flock: bargain made: Jack let fly, and missed: geese set up a general hiss, and Kit advised us to discontinue the action.

1 P. M.—Turned down a green lane on our left, thinking that the game on the high road might be too wild. Drove a gander before us, holding out our guns in a slanting direction, while Tom Tiffany with his horse-pistol kept the dogs at bay. Looked over our shoulders, and, when we found ourselves out of view from the road, fired a volley. All missed: gander screamed, and was making past us back to the highway, when, with admirable presence of mind, I knocked him on the head with the butt-end of my piece. Gave him a thump each to secure ourselves of his demise, and crammed him into

Kit's blue bag, which he filled choke full, like a bill in Chancery.

2 P. M.—Steered on towards Pancras, wondering at the romantic beauties that met us at every turning: caught a peep at the Small-pox Hospital, and longed for a pop at a patient. Put up a couple of gipsies and a donkey: recovered arms just in time: had my fortune told, viz. that I should stand upon some boards that would slip from under me: walked back to Kit for a solution: could make neither head nor tail of it: resolved to ask the exciseman at the club: determined to make a knot in my handkerchief as a memorandum, and found gipsies had eased me of my yellow Barcelona. Walked back to shoot them for the larceny, but found, as Kit expressed it, the writ returned *non est inventus*. Arrived at Holywell Mount: read printed notice, "It is lawful to shoot rubbish here:" took the hint, fired, and blew Jerry Bentham off a book-stall.

3 P. M.—Dinner at the Adam and Eve, Camden Town. Pigeon-pie at top, and lamb-chops at bottom. Tom Tiffany in the chair, and I deputy. Asked Tom for a piece of the pie: carving-knife slipped, and in went his fist through the top crust, penetrated the pigeon, and stuck in the beefsteak sod at the base. "Now your hand's in," said Jack Juniper, "I'll thank you for some of that pie." Tom wiped the gravy from his wristband, and did not seem to relish the joke, but all the rest of us laughed ready to kill ourselves. Asked the waiter if he had any ginger beer: answered "Yes, sir," and rushed out, returning instantly with a stone bottle. Began to loosen wire: bottle hissed and spit like a roasting apple: all looked on in awful silence: at length out bounced the cork, and hit Tom Tiffany on the bridge of his nose: Tom cocked his pistol to return his adversary's fire: but the other bawling "Coming, sir," bolted through the door like lightning: poured out foaming liquor in a glass, meaning to take a delicious draught, and found that I had swallowed a concern in which vinegar, brickdust, and soapsuds, were the working partners.

**4 P. M.**—Prowled round the brick-fields near the Newington road, to start birds that love a warm climate. Saw a hopping raven with its left wing clipped: went up within a yard of it, and brought it down: clapped the black game into my haversack, and told a milk-maid that the brood came over from Norway every autumn. Eyed Deputy Firkin's apple-tree that hung over the New River: felt very desirous of bringing down a leash of pippins, but saw a little man in black on the watch. Jack Juniper shut both his eyes and pulled his trigger: down dropt the man: all took to their heels, with our heads full of the new drop. At length says Lawyer Kit, "Let's go back and get him an apothecary; if he dies after that, it will be only *felo de se*." Back we stole in sad tribulation, and found to our great relief that Jack had shot a scarecrow. Tom changed trousers with the deceased, his own being a little the worse for wear: Canonbury clock began to toll, and we made the best of our way towards the Shephord and Shepherdess, firing in the air to take the chance of whatever might be flying that way. Saw a fine turkey under a wicker enclosure: rammed down cartridge: presented and pulled trigger: no effects: remembered Gargle's prescription as to pills—

"If one won't do,  
Why, then, take two;"

and rammed down another cartridge; still no effects: ditto with four more: at last bang off went my musket: thought there was an end of the world: fell senseless upon my back, and when I opened my eyes found Tom Turpentine smacking my palms with an old shoe, taken from an adjoining dust-heap, and Jack Juniper pouring water into my mouth taken from an adjoining ditch.

**5 P. M.**—Felt much soreness about my left shoulder, and determined to poach no more upon Finsbury Manor. Climbed up an Islington coach: took a seat upon the box, and put my fire-arms between my legs, and my bag in the boot. Descended at the back of the 'Change, crossed into Lombard-street, and, having arrived safe

and sound in Bush-lane, gave Molly the game to dress for supper, and walked up stairs to drink a comfortable dish of tea with Mrs. Swandown.

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CIVIC SPORTS, NO. II.

[Extract from the Journal of Simon Swandown.]

*The Wedding Day.*

First they kiss'd,  
Then shook fist,  
And look'd like two fools just a-going to marry.—*Old Song.*

*Saturday, Nov. 15, 1823.—9 A. M.* Dressed myself in my new blue coat, white waistcoat, diamond shirt-pin, sea-green small clothes, and white silk stockings, not forgetting a pair of white kid gloves, to attend celebration of marriage of Betsy, third daughter of my old friend Benjamin Blueball, the pawnbroker in Fleet-street, with Richard Highdry, son of Ezekiel Highdry, the tobacconist in Long-lane, Smithfield. Waited half an hour for my wife, who had solemnly engaged to “get on her things” at nine precisely. No time for breakfast; but as Blueball had promised us a magnificent one in Fleet-street, that did not much matter. To save time, walked down stairs to shop, and served Clutterbuck’s clerk with two quires of foolscap and a quarter of a pound of red sealing-wax; he evidently all the while much puzzled to account for my early finery. Wife’s flounces being at length adjusted, set off as gay as larks, in a hackney chariot, up from Bush-lane toward place of appointment. Stopped by a coal-waggon at corner of Cannon-street, while carter was throwing down empty sacks, and bawling one, two, three, four! Wife thrust out of window her head, covered with a white beaver hat, ornamented with white ostrich feathers tipped with scarlet, and told counting man that we were

in a hurry. Carter grinned, and answered, "Then you had better wait till your hurry is over!" Wife drew back in anger, observing, however, that the fellow really had not a bad set of teeth. Coalheavers and chimney-sweeps always have white teeth. Val. Verjuice says, it proceeds from the blackness of their faces; as a Drury-lane message-bearer looks a capital actor when planted among the sticks on Richmond-green. Drove through Lombard-street, and along Cheapside; feeling a serene complacency at being well dressed. Turned toward St. Paul's, when wife gave a loud scream as if she was stuck, and, with a pull at the check-string that almost brought the driver's little finger into her lap, exclaimed that she had quite forgotten a toy for little Sally Blueball. Deviated to corner of Paternoster-row, and stopped at Dunnett's toy and Tunbridge warehouse, with rocking-horses enough to stock both theatres. Paviers and passengers made an awe-struck alley to let us pass. Much deliberation before final decision. Leaden rope-dancers, tumble-down London cries, nut-cracking human heads, and wax dolls with moveable eyes, successively chosen and rejected. Wife at length pitched upon a little white dog, who, on being earnestly pressed, barked under his fore-paws. Had a private opinion that it sounded more like a cuckoo, but was too prudent to give it utterance.

10 A. M.—Arrived safely in Fleet-street, wife desiring Blueball's shopman to be particularly careful of her shawl. Ushered up stairs, and introduced in form to the assembled company. Heard my own name repeated above twenty times, and longed for Bishop to set the serenade to music: "Sir Christopher Contract, Mr. Simon Swandown; Mr. Simon Swandown, Sir Christopher Contract; Mr. Simon Swandown, Sir Samuel Suffrage; Sir Samuel Suffrage, Mr. Simon Swandown," Ditto (*wicy warcy*, as the man has it in "Sweethearts and Wives,") with Mr. John Blueball and Mr. Peter Blueball, brothers of our host. Ditto with Mr. Prune and Pobjoy, brother and half-brother of Mrs. Blueball. Head hardly settled, when it was set dizzy again by

similar changes rung between my wife and the wives of the aforesaid. Observed three old ladies, dressed, poor creatures! in white muslin at this inclement season, seated near the fire, and staring at the hearth-rug. Asked Blueball, in a whisper, who they were? was answered, in another whisper, that they were maiden aunts of Mrs. Blueball, who had come up to London on purpose; that he did not at this moment recollect their names, nor where they came from; he knew it was from some place beginning with an M. It might be Malton, or Maidstone, or Margate: no, that was not it: he was pretty sure it was either Malmsbury, Manchester, or Mauritania: at all events, it began with an M. After the storm of introduction, sea settled into a dead calm, nobody knowing what to talk about. Mrs. Blueball hereupon pulled nursery-bell, and a shower-bath of brats ensued. Wife now produced white dog, which was received by little Sally, who, in the hurry of possession, quite forgot the requisite curtsy. That homage being performed at the instigation of mamma, wife put urchin up to the barking process, and the whole house ere long echoed "cuckoo:"—odd overture to a marriage festival!

11 A. M. A knock at the street-door announced the advent of the bridegroom, and brought Betsy the bride into the room, supported by Emma and Harriet, her two elder sisters. A general rising, accompanied by that sort of compassionate attention which is bestowed upon gentlemen in the press-yard while their fetters are being knocked off. Betsy's eyes red; dressed in order to look particularly well, and consequently never looked so ill. In two seconds in stalked Richard Highdry. Ribbed white silk stockings, and breeches of the colour of our Elizabeth's canary-bird; hair auburn, according to the Miss Blueballs; but had he come upon any errand short of courtship, I am convinced they would have dubbed it red. A hurried bow and a blush denoted the iniquity of his object. Seated himself, as in duty bound, next to his mistress upon a music-stool. Offered him a chair; but he answered, in a tone of affected indifference, "No,

thank you, this will do very well :” vibrating and crackling all the while like a tin chimney cap in a high wind. Another knock, and an announcement of two dingy-looking trustees under the marriage settlement. Bluehall in high spirits, snapping his fingers, jingling his keys in his breeches pocket, and darting his physiognomy into every body’s face, like one in quest of his wine. Mrs. Bluehall communicated apart with one of the dingy trustees, who thereupon thus addressed the company : “It is time to go to church. St. Bride’s being such a mere step, it is settled that we go on four.” Bride now applied sal volatile to her nostrils, and groom, in my humble opinion, looked like a decided ass. Written paper produced by other trustees, setting forth order of precedence : viz. Mr. Bluehall and bride, Mrs. Bluehall and groom, Sir Christopher Contract and Lady Suffrage, Sir Samuel Suffrage and Lady Contract, Betsy Bluehall and my wife, myself and Mauritania aunt No. 1, Peter Bluehall and ditto No. 2, Mr. Pounce and ditto No. 2, the two dingy trustees with Emma and Harriet Bluehall, and Mr. Pot-joy with the French teacher. Troops filed off, and descended to street-door. Order of march much impeded by a string of Menx’s drays extending from Temple Bar to the Hand-in-Hand for-office. Three first couple darted between two drays, remainder left on pavement in front of door. Mauritania aunts thus separated, to their no small terror. Forces at length congregated safely in St. Bride’s church. Rank and file ranged round the altar. Audible sobe from mamma, and serious symptoms of hysterics from Emma. Bridegroom fumbled in his waistcoat-pocket for ring ; would gladly have given him mine, but wife would not let me. On being questioned whether he would take Betsy Bluehall for his lawful wife, groom waited half a second, as if to deliberate, and at length out bolted “I will !” like a pellet from a pop-gun.

12 M. Order of return impeded at corner of Bridge Street by Bethel Union charity boys, in dwarf leather breeches, headed by Lord Gambier, and tailed by Mr. Willerforce, singing a suitable hymn in duetto. Hun-

dreds of servant-maids looking out of garret windows. Safe back at starting-post. Magnificent breakfast in the mean time set out in drawing-room. Found juniors of family busy in making up packets of bride-cake, with little bits drawn through the ring for special favourites. Wife made me cram ours into my coat pocket; grease evidently oozing through: did not quite approve of having my new blue coat pocket made a buttery hatch, but thought it expedient to say nothing. Coffee handed round by simpering maid. Bridegroom, having one hand round bride's waist, reached his cup too carelessly in the other, and consequently tilted half its contents upon his own canary shorts. The latter, in the parts thus deluged, assumed an autumnal tinge not ill suited to the season. More finger-snapping and tomfooling from Blueball, who exhibited in triumph the key of the street-door, swearing that, on a day of such fun and jollity, nobody should depart till midnight. Looked about for the fun and jollity: Momus's writ returned *non est inventus*.

1 P. M. Affairs at a dead stand-still. Piano opened by Emma. Three aunts reinstated near the hearth-rug. Two of them beckoned their former captives, but youngsters hung fire, as not approving of any more head-patting. Bride tried her hand at "She loves and loves for ever," but burst into tears at the second line, and finished the business with a glass of water. Two dingy trustees began to pore over draft of marriage settlement: the words, "3 per cents.—vested—body—issue, if any—then to such only child—*toties quoties*," being distinctly audible. Flattened my nose against window-pane, and betted sixpences with Bob Blueball upon passing hackney-coaches: if number above 500, I was to pay him; if below, he me. Hack chaise and pair drove up to door to convey happy couple, accompanied by Nancy, to Star and Garter at Richmond. Kisses, tears, and farewells. Bridegroom's asinine aspect in no way diminished. Tried to get a kiss from the bride, and got my mouth full of Brussels lace.

2 P. M. Ennui banished by political discussion. Sir



Christopher contended that Lord Holland ought to be thrown into the sea; and Sir Samuel Suffrage swore that Mr. Canning deserved to be hanged. Thought to soften down matters, as I do at home; so I suggested that Mr. Canning should only be half hanged, and that Lord Holland should be sunk only up to the middle in Probert's pond. Proposition treated by both parties with an indignant frown, as proceeding from a wretch who knew nothing of the matter. Took up Morning Chronicle, and read for the fourth time account of sale at Gill's Hill cottage. Mr. Prune, a great collector of curiosities, showed me a feather from the bed that Miss Noyes slept in the night of the murder, knocked down to him yesterday by Page the auctioneer at 4*l.* 10*s.* Had nearly finished that article, and was setting about reading the whole paper, beginning with No. 17,028, and ending with "Printed and published," when old Blueball whisked the paper out of my hand, and exclaimed, "What! reading? no reading to-day. This is, as 'Tom Thumb says, 'a day of fun and jollity.'" Wondered when the fun and jollity was to begin. Looked out of the window, and envied the black sweeper officiating at the base of Wilkes's pedestal.—N. B. Idleness a very laborious trade. If any youth has no objection to a fatiguing occupation, let him be bound apprentice to a nothing-to-do man.

3 P. M. Determined to stand it no longer. Watched opportunity, when host was chuckling and poking the ribs of trustee at the window, to open parlour-door softly. Stole down stairs on tiptoe; rushed out of back door; quickened my pace; and on entering Paternoster-row, bobbed swiftly to the left, and dived into the viscera of Newgate-market. Slackened my pace, no longer dreading pursuit: walked leisurely along Cheapside, the Poultry, and Cornhill; and, with great delight, in full 'Change, mixed myself with Jews, jobbers, brokers, and Turkey merchants. Was in the very act of looking at stone-mason chipping the smut from the dilated nostrils of George the First, when somebody gently touched my elbow, and, on turning round, to my great consternation

beheld Blueball's shopman, who, touching his hat, exclaimed, "Beg pardon, Sir, but master says you must come back." Gave him a shilling to promise to say he could not meet with me. Went home, and caught Peter Pencil, my foreman, practising the jumping waltz with Betty, with a blind fiddler aiding and abetting upon a two-stringed kit.

5 P. M.—Went back to dinner. Hints from old Blueball to me to propose health of bride and bridegroom: trembled as I filled my glass: had the requisite speech quite by heart yesterday, having been heard by wife without missing a word. Got upon my legs, and transposed a dozen initials, viz.—said I rose to toast a propose, which I had no doubt the company would delight with a great deal of drink; that I was not much used to public peaking, and therefore should merely health the drink of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Highdry, and may they be a cappy hupple!" Speech received with great applause, notwithstanding the hey contrary sides of its consonants. Mrs. Blueball burst into tears in order to return thanks—felt highly flattered by the flattering manner in which, &c.; that she had lost the flower of her flock, (here the eldest survivor reddened)—she should never see her equal, (here the second survivor bridled)—she hoped and trusted she never should lose another. (Here Emily, just come out, giggled and cast a glance upon her flirting associate Peter Prune, as much as to say, "I would not be a good offer in her way.") She hoped the company had been feasted to their satisfaction (applause): she left the management of the wine to Mr. Blueball, but in justice to herself she must say she bought the almonds and raisins from Groom's opposite, and blanched the former with her own hands. (Great and continued applause.)

7 P. M.—Sad symptoms of music. Heard Rob Blueball squeaking a preparatory tenor, and Mr. Peter Prune, who piques himself upon his bass, grumbling in his gizzard. Anticipated with horror the accustomed routine, viz. "Hark the lark," the "Loadstars," "When shall we three meet again?" and "Drink to me only," for the

ninety-ninth time. Entertained an apprehension that the parties might even be "Deserted by the waning moon," when providentially a cry of "Fire!" saluted our ears from the street. Ran to the window, threw back the curtain, and found it to proceed from two butcher's boys, who with pop-guns were playing at duels. Said nothing, but walked back with a grave face. Wife in hysterics already. Beheld the Albion engines pumping in at the parlour-window. Insisted, if I loved her, that I should call a hackney-coach, greeting me with accustomed rondeau, "Do make haste, do." Threw up the sashes and shouted "Coach," in a voice that might have drawn one from the Pavement in Moorfields. Wife darted into vehicle in an excess of terror, quite forgetting the shawl which she had given shopman for safe custody. Hasty adieus, and tea and toast in Bush-lane.

If nobody marries till Simon Swandown again attends the ceremony, Malthus will have no reason to grumble at excess of population.

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#### SELECT SOCIETY; OR, A WEEK AT WORTHING.

1822.—SEPT. 2nd, *Monday*.—Set off from my tea-shop in Tooley-street, in Newman's patent safety-coach, for Worthing. Stopped at Elephant and Castle. Drew up cheek by jowl with Tom Turpentine, who was outside the Brighton Comet. Asked me why I went to Worthing: told him how select the company was. Tom grinned, and betted me a bottle that I should be at Brighton before seven days were over my head. Bought three pears at Dorking: offered one to a gentleman in front, which he declined, and took a paper of Sandwiches from his pocket: never offered me one, which I thought rude. Arrived at Worthing at half-past four. Steyne hotel: ordered a veal-cutlet at five, and walked out to view the ocean. Never saw it before, and never more disappointed. Expected waves mountains high, shriek-

ing mariners, swamped long-boat, "and all that sort of thing." Smooth as West-India docks. Walked up to Wicks's warm baths, upon the Pebbles—natives call it the Shingle. Picked up a stone with a hole through it, and put it in my pocket for Jack. Opened window of coffee-room to get health enough for my money. Play-bill—"Cure for the Heart-ache"—performance to begin at seven. Looked at my watch, and wondered to find it only six. Took a stroll five times up and down Anne-street to pass the time. Saw two ladies alight from a coach that had no legs. Asked the driver (I should say the dragger) what it meant? Told me it was a fly. Looked more like a tortoise. Tall manager played Young Rapid. Man next to me said his name was Quinbus Flestrin—an odd name; probably German. Vining in Frank Oatland;—plays nothing but Mercury at Drury-lane. What can Elliston mean?

*Tuesday.*—Prawns for breakfast: like shrimps better. Looked through a telescope. Bathing machines marked "for gentlemen only." Oil painting in coffee-room: woman riding on dolphin's back, without a rag of covering, and bearded man floundering and blowing a trumpet beside her. Asked waiter if that was a picture of a Worthing bath? Answered, "Yes, Sir;" and ran out of the room with half a pigeon-pie. Mem.: Machines "for gentlemen only," and ladies obliged to do without. Bathing at Worthing not so select as society. Walked to Stafford's library; paid seven and sixpence, and put down my name in a book. Looked over list of visitors: Earl of Elderbury, Lady Seraphina Surf, General Culverin, Lord and Lady Longshore, and Sir Barnaby Billow. Rubbed my hands, and thought we should make a nice snug party. Took up a tee-to-tum: counted seven children's whips, eight paper mills, six rocking-horses, and nineteen whistles;—odd library furniture. Perused a paper on a side-table; subscription for widow of a drowned waiter: laid it down softly, and thanked gentleman in green spectacles for that newspaper, when it was out of hand. Dined upon fried soles,—tasted too much of the sea. Walked out to view the town; every

shopkeeper named either Wicks or Stubbs. Asked man in green spectacles the reason: told me it was owing to the north-east wind. Wondered how that could cause it; but thought it best to say no more about it. Library in the evening: dull and cold: girl in pink played, "We're a Noddin," and sure enough we all were.

*Wednesday.* Heard a nurse-maid, under coffee-room window, say the tide was coming in. Despatched breakfast in haste, fearing I should be too late. Ran down to the beach. Stood upon a large flat stone, like the king in Jack's history of England. Little thought there was any danger, till a wave rose above my shoes. Dr. Dragonsblood told me not to mind, for sea-water never gave cold: could not answer him for coughing and sneezing. Asked library-man what were his *lions*? Told me the Miller's Tomb. Almost brought myself to the resolution of getting into a machine. Heart failed me: sneaked into a warm bath: swallowed a mouthful of warm water, and went back to hotel sick as a dog. Hired a donkey-chaise, and went to Miller's Tomb. No great things. There are three miller's tombs in St. George's church-yard, Southwark. Dined upon veal-pie. Sir Barnaby Billow came into the room to look at a map of the county. Told him it was a very fine day; to which he answered, "Very:" pulled the bell, and walked out of the room. Wondered when I should be one of the select society; and said to myself, "Phoo! he is only a baronet!" Telescope again: cast a long-ing look towards Brighton: weather hazy: saw nothing but nothing. Play, "Honey Moon." Miss Dance, Juliana, for that night only, from Brighton. Too lady-like; looked above her business, like Tom Treacle, my dandy shopman. Walked to beach, and stood half an hour to see a lighter discharge coals by candle-light; smacked my lips, and felt as if I had been eating salt. Went to bed, and dreamt of Miss Dance.

*Thursday.*—Swore an oath that I *would* go into the sea, and got into a machine to avoid being indicted for perjury. Began to undress, and in one minute machine began to move; wondered where I was going. Fancied

it at least half a mile. Was upon the point of calling out for help, when the driver turned about. Stood trembling on the brink, and at last jumped in: just time enough to be too late. Hit my elbow against the steps, and lost a ribbed cotton stocking. Felt quite in a glow, and went home in high spirits to get another stocking. Donkey-cart again. Changtonbury Ring. Driver said, finest prospect in all the world. Asked him how much of the world he had seen? Answered, "Lancing, Shoreham, and Broadwater Green." Donkey jibbed at foot of hill. Got out and dragged him up by left ear. Fine exercise for a valetudinarian. Let his ear go, and found that it did not move with the other. Afraid I had dislocated the organ. Paid driver three and sixpence, and said nothing about it. Dined upon cold beef. Appetite on the decline. Mem. Nothing-to-do a very troublesome business. Library. Girl with the harp: all nodding again. Opened "The Fortunes of Nigel," and found my nose flat upon the third page, before I knew where I was.

*Friday.*—Low water—All the world promenading on the sands. Lady Seraphina and the General on horseback. Patted her ladyship's poodle-dog, and cried "What a beauty!" Lady and General off in a canter, and poodle followed, barking. Thought select society rather rude, and began to doubt whether a touch of vulgarity would not make it more polite. Stood still, and beat devil's tattoo. Sand as dry as a bone; began to be dabby as a batter-pudding. Remembered having heard talk of quick-sands, and shifted my quarters. Made for the shore, and found myself surrounded by water. Saw a boy making a bridge of stones; passed over and gave him a penny. Lad grumbled: told him I paid no more to cross Waterloo Bridge, which cost a matter of a million of money. Looked at my watch, and wondered it was only twelve. Strolled up Steyne-row into the town. Stopped at the corner of Warwick-street, and looked into grocer's shop. Had half a mind to borrow a white apron, and offer to serve behind the counter to keep my hand in: just as Jack learns a bit

of Ovid during the Christmas holidays. Recollected I was a gentleman, and sighed. Took a walk on the Lancing road. Met some gipsies, who told my fortune. Said I should be in a great place shortly. Told them I hoped I should, and that I was a fool for ever quitting it. Play again. A bespeak. Lady Longshore's name at the top of the bills as big as Bish in the lottery season. Went out of compliment to her ladyship, who never once asked me how I did. Select society beginning to be at a discount.

*Saturday.*—Market-day.—Spent two hours in seeing the women spread their crockery upon the pavement. Bought a bunch of grapes, and stood under the portico of the theatre, spitting the skins into the kennel. Saw the Earl of Elderbury and Sir Barnaby Billow in a barouche. Lady Seraphina again on horseback. Overheard them talk of going to Cæsar's camp. Determined to go myself: thought I might know some of the officers: remembered speaking to Lord Banbury when I was a corporal in Colonel Birch's first Loyal London. Sang "the Soldier Tired" to myself, but stopped when I came to the quavers. Went to hire a donkey-cart. Fought shy of the donkey with the loose ear, and sidled off to the other stand opposite Wicks's warm baths. Hired a pony-chaise, quite genteel, and trotted to the camp. Wondered that I heard no drums and fifes. Passed the ditch, and found it a complete hoax: nothing but mounds of earth and thistles: General Cæsar decamped; and I dare say in debt to half the town. Went up to my bed-room, and counted my clean linen nine times over: strange laundresses require looking after. "Romeo and Juliet:" did not like the notion of "a Tragedy in Warm Weather." Began to reckon how soon I should win my bottle of Tom Turpentine, and hoped I should not die before it became due, like the starved man who translated the Bible. Yawned five times, and fell asleep. Awakened by waiter with candles. Read the Brighton Herald quite through, including all its fashionable arrivals from Duke's-place and Capel-court. Wished myself there, and thought Tom Turpentine no

fool. Pored over map of Sussex. Counted the knobs on the fender. Read half through the Army-list on the mantelpiece, thrust my feet into a pair of slippers without heels, and went to bed.

*Sunday.*—Chapel of Ease. Sermon for benefit of two free schools. Plates held by Lady Seraphina and Earl of Elderbury. Happened to go out at Lady Seraphina's door. Meant to give only a shilling; but, plate being held by a dame of quality, could not give less than half-a-crown. Never so much as said "Thank-ye." Select society quite out of my books. Could not face the town, knowing that billiard-room and library were closed. Strolled as far as Broadwater-common. Aided by a crooked stick, amused myself with picking blackberries. Broke off a fine branch laden with fruit, which fell on the other side of the ditch. Went round two fields to get at it. When I arrived, found that I had left my crooked stick on the other side. Went back to fetch it. After great difficulty got hold of the branch. Quite refreshing to have something to do. Bore home my prize in triumph, and gave it to a child at the corner of South-street. Walked upon the beach; threw a large stone six feet off, and pitched ninety-nine little stones to try to hit it. Yawned heavily. Mouth so habitually open, began to fear it would never shut, and quite pleased at five to find that it would chew again. Evening pretty much like the last.

*Monday.*—Remounted Newman's patent safety.—Never so happy as when I again crossed its front wheel. Seriously ill at starting, but better as I approached wholesome London air. Sniffed the breezes of Bermondsey with peculiar satisfaction, and reached Tooley-street just in time to despatch the following letter to Tom Turpentine. "Dear Tom,—No more weeks at Worthington. Select society is all very well for select people. Your's to command, Kit Cannister."



## THE FIRST OF APRIL.

OR, ARTE PERIRE SUA.

8 A. M.—Looked out of bed-room window into Gracechurch-street, and called “Sweep” to a boy with a soot-bag. Saw him stop, look about him at the corner of White Hart-court, and then walk on. Halted him three times in the same way. Tried a fourth, and popped my head out at the wrong moment. Boy, in a great passion, threw a turnip, which broke me a half-crown pane, and woke my wife. Swore I knew nothing about it, and sneaked down to breakfast.

9 A. M.—Went to table-drawer, and silyly pocketed three little lumps of alabaster. Returned and took my seat at breakfast-table, as if nothing had happened. Put alabaster at top of blue sugar-basin, and, to my great delight, saw Kitty put one into each of the children’s cups. Children hammered and pushed and wondered sugar would not melt. Thought I should have died: three of my best silver tea-spoons bent as crooked as rams’ horns. Very demure when Mrs. Gander came down to breakfast. Never attack wife;—(harpooners have some reason for not meddling with a certain species of whale, as being too fierce.) So says Guthrie’s Grammar.

10 A. M.—Went behind counter to serve. Asked Jack Mitten, my foreman, if anybody had blacked his face. Jack answered, “Not to my knowledge,” and went to looking-glass. I replied, “Nor to mine either.” Laughed very much, but Jack did not see much in it. Sam Snaffle, the driver of the Clapham, looked in to know what places were booked. Told him one inside, a lady, to take up at Seam’s manufactory this side the Elephant. Saw him set off, one short, and thought I should have died. Took pen, ink, and paper, and wrote a letter as if from Dobbs the druggist to Lawyer Lynx, telling him to arrest Shuffle the shoemaker for 23*l.* 10*s.* goods sold and delivered. Gave it to ticket-porter, and told him Lynx would pay the portorage.

11 A. M.—Went back into the shop to serve. Sold a white cotton nightcap to an exciseman, and told him it was the fellow to six others which I had parted with to half-a-dozen other gentlemen who were to set off on a journey from the Old Bailey to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. He did not seem to see much in it, but I laughed amazingly. Saw Jack Mitten serving a lady with a red elastic purse, at the other counter. Took up a newspaper and read loud enough for her to hear, "Dreadful depravity! an Irish fruit-woman in Dyot-street, St. Giles, scraped her child to death with an oyster-shell." Lady screamed and went into hysterics. Gave her a glass of water, and told her "it was a shame that oyster-shells were suffered to lie about the street." Thought I should never have done laughing.

12 M.—Sent Molly to Spa-fields to see a live radical. Told her to buy me a straight hook in her way home, at Peter Pull-gill's in Crooked-lane. Told her I should also want a glass ink-horn: and that a male mermaid was expected to swim down Fish-street-hill at two. Wife overheard, and called me an old fool. Did not see much in it, but Molly laughed.

1 P. M.—Asked Jack Mitten who was the father of the sons of Noah: where Moses was when the candle was blown out; and which was most, half-a-dozen dozen, or six dozen dozen. The poor fellow could not answer one of them. Took the steps, climbed up slily to the clock, and pushed the hands to two hours forwarder. Heard wife, who caught a glance of it, rail at the cook for not putting down the leg of mutton, telling her it only wanted an hour of dinner-time. Clock struck a hundred and one: found I had done mischief, and stole away to Elicot to get him to repair it.

2 P. M.—Took a turn upon 'Change. Told Rothschild I hoped he liked Columbian bonds. Did not much like his looks, so stole away and entered the rotundo at the Bank. Buzz, the broker, asked me to hold his umbrella, while he went to sell two thousand at 73½. Dropt two handfulls of saw-dust into his umbrella. On his return, walked out with him into Bartholomew-lane.

Luckily rained hard: Buzz flirled open his umbrella over his head, and covered himself with saw-dust. This made me laugh till I cried. Buzz threw back a handful of saw-dust into my left eye: this made me cry till I laughed.

3 P. M.—Looked in at Batson's. Talked with Blue-fist, the broker, about indigo, sassafras, gum, oakum, and elephant's teeth. Called for pen, ink, and paper: wrote a letter from Jolter inviting Scraggs to dine off a fine hare and sweet sauce: ditto, *vice versa*, Scraggs to Jolter to dine off real turtle. Gave waiter a shilling to take both letters, and be sure not to tell. Took a walk over London-bridge to Horsemonger-lane sessions. Looked over sessions-paper, and saw indictment, The King against O'Bludgeon, about thirty off. Went into front yard and bawled out, "The King against O'Bludgeon is just called on." Such a rush of barristers, bar-keepers, and witnesses into court! Two apple-barrows upset, and a barrister's wig trampled under foot. Roared out "April fools." Dodged off through Guy's Hospital, and walked homeward chuckling. Halted on London-bridge. Tide running up. Looked through balustrades towards Custom-house: clasped my hands in agony, exclaimed "They'll every one of them be drowned," and ran across to look through balustrades on opposite side. Mob in a fever: all traffic at a stand-still: hundreds of necks craned out to peep at the sufferers. Bawled out "April fools," and dodged round one of Meux's drays.—Butcher's boy saw me, and gave the view halloo. Scudded off to Bridge-foot, mob at my heels: ducked into Tower-street: slid up St. Mary's-hill: entered Cannon Street: upset a kit of pickled salmon, and brushed into a hackney-coach, which conveyed me home—hit in two places, and covered with mud. Changed clothes: went out again, determined to be more wary. Entered Auction-mart, at corner of Throgmorton Street. Chucked fruit-woman under chin, and went up to auction-room. Saw Gab, the auctioneer, mount pulpit. Took a stand at further end of room, and tried my tongue at ventriloquy. Beat Mathews hollow. Bid in seven different voices

from various parts of the room, and saw Gab knock down seven articles to seven innocent bystanders, viz. a fowling-piece to a fat widow ; a pair of stays to a ward deputy ; a gig to a waiting-woman ; O'Keefe's Works to a Methodist parson ; a complete set of John Bull to Alderman Wood ; a Greek grammar to a stock-broker ; and a chapel of ease to a servant-maid of all work.

4 P. M.—Dinner. Asked Jack Mitton to take a glass of sherry, and poked vinegar cruet into his paw. Made him sputter out liquid, like lion's head at Aldgate pump. Swore it was all his own doing, and for once in a way got believed. Told wife I had been at Batson's ; was asked by her what news ? Answered, the French had taken umbrage. More fools the Spaniards, replied Mrs. Gander, for not fortifying it better. Noise at front door. Sam Snaffle in a fine taking at my hoax in the morning ; swore would not quit house till I paid him for his one inside : paid him eighteen pence, and as he threatened to have me "pulled up," gave him another shilling to drink my health.

5 P. M.—Polite note from Lawyer Lynx, telling me that hoaxing an attorney was felony at common law, and that he meant to indict me at the ensuing Old Bailey Sessions, unless I paid the costs in *Dodd v. Shuffle*, according to enclosed account. Perused bill : "Attending plaintiff by appointment, when he asked me how I did, six and eightpence : attending, answering him, pretty meddling, six and eightpence, &c. &c. : total five pound eighteen." Damned all pettifoggers, and gave bearer a check for the amount. Muffinman with bell : bawled out muffins and bobbed. Aimed at Periwinkle with a pea-shooter ; and chalked, "Mangling done here," upon Slice the surgeon's window-shutter. Visit from bowing bobbing waiter from the City of London tavern, "Beg pardon, sir, but here's the bill, sir." "What bill !" "Mr. Jolter, sir, and Mr. Scraggs, sir, them as you April-fooled this morning ; met and compared notes, sir ; knew your hand ; went to my master's tavern together, City of London, sir ; ordered your own dinner, sir ; turtle and roast hare for two, sir ; and told me to bring

you the bill, sir." Swore I would not pay it: looked out of window, and saw Jolter and Scraggs walking up and down by the Wandsworth coach, and flourishing a brace of horsewhips. Set it down for no joke, and told waiter to call to-morrow for his money.

6 P. M.—Tea and toast. Determined to play the fool no more, not quite approving of the expense. Put on velvet cap and slippers. Made a leg arm-chair for little Nancy. Wife busy reading Doctor Kitchener's cookery; and Lætitia deep in Peveril of the Peak, with her legs up on the sofa. Rat-a-tat at front door, loud enough to wake defunct Sir Thomas Gresham. Rattle and slap of a hackney-coach step. Hearts sunk within us. Rustling of silk gown on the stairs. Little Nancy despatched as a light troop, to watch the enemy's motions; rushed back, exclaiming with an awful face, "Mrs. Deputy Kilderkin." General scramble to hide objectionables; buttered toast, piled up like planks in a deal-yard, chucked into the cupboard; Peveril canted into the coal-scuttle; bowl of brown sugar carefully crammed in table-drawer, and best lump substituted; Lætitia's legs put perpendicular, and wife's vinegar visage varnished with a proper coating of sweet oil to greet visitor. Parlour-door opened: enter Mrs. Deputy Kilderkin.

7 P. M.—Bows and smiles. Coffee and hard rusks. Found *we* had been hoaxed. Card in wife's name inviting Mrs. Kilderkin, apologizing for short notice, but mentioning that Mr. Bochsa and his thirteen harps could not be had on any other evening. Suspected Alderman Arrowroot, and vowed to be even with him this day twelve-month. Listened to a deal of high life from Mrs. Kilderkin and daughter Lætitia. Comparative merits of Miss Taylor of the Circus and Miss Brunton of the West London: glass curtain at the Cobourg; Mr. and Mrs. Fitzwilliam: monthly assembly at the Horns, Kennington: the new turnpike in the Borough-road, and what a different thing Trinity Square was from old Tower Hill. Nodded assent with my eyes shut: wife kicked my shins to keep me awake.

8 P. M.—Music. Mrs. Kilderkin and Lætitia went

through the orthodox routine. Mrs. Kilderkin swore she had no voice, and Lætitia only wished she had half as good a one. Lætitia vowed she could not finger a note; and Mrs. Kilderkin said, if she could only play a quarter as well, she should think herself a finished performer. Preliminaries thus adjusted, both sat down together and thumped overture to Lodoiska, till the poor piano trembled on its legs.

9 P. M.—Whist. Wife and I against Lætitia and deputy's lady. Head running upon take-in of tavern-bill: missed deal with queen of diamonds at bottom: wife kicked my left shin. Second deal: at my old tricks: asked Mrs. Kilderkin if she had heard the news? Answered No; what news? Told her that Ferdinand had dissolved the Cortes in hot water. Played a spade, and thought it was a trump: another kick from wife. Licked my thumb to deal better, and got a third kick.

10 P. M.—Whist again: seats changed to change luck. Long dispute between Mrs. Kilderkin and Mrs. Gander, the one asserting that Lord Byron should never marry a daughter of hers, and the other that he should. Head bothered by Beppo, Mazeppo, and Aleppo. Trumped my partner's lead. Fourth kick from wife, luckily intercepted by Mrs. Kilderkin's off-ankle. Wife begged pardon. Another rat-tat-tat, and another rattle and slap from hackney-coach step, announced the arrival of Mrs. Deputy's equipage: bows and courtesies: shawls, simpers, and ceremonious exit, Mrs. Kilderkin vowing, with a yawn, that she had never passed a pleasanter evening.

11 P. M.—Bed candles. One made by me, consisting of a round pole of cut turnip, tipped with charcoal, unluckily selected by my wife. Much poking with snuffers before trick detected. Glance of vengeance; exit wife upstairs, husband following.

12 P. M.—Listened to curtain lecture fifty-nine minutes, and then feel asleep.

## ANNUS MIRABILIS! OR, A PARTHIAN GLANCE AT 1832.

*January.*—"Cain a Mystery," published by Lord Byron: preface states his lordship's difficulty in making Lucifer talk like a clergyman. A country vicar proceeded against in the Ecclesiastical Court, for swearing that he had a horse that would gallop to hell: not equally difficult, therefore, to make a clergyman talk like Lucifer.—Miss Stephens nearly lost in the Trafalgar packet. If she be, as the newspapers say, the Syren of the stage, surely she might laugh at "All the rude dangers of crossing the ocean."—Colonel Thornton proved himself alive, by asserting that he was in the daily practice of swallowing six muffins at breakfast, and three pounds of roast or boiled at dinner: this would prove the death of any other man.—Tom and Jerry, or Life in London, still acting at the Adelphi Theatre, teaching the rising male generation "that great moral lesson," how to patter slang, mill a lamp-lighter, or box a Charley.—A great outcry from Mr. Loveday, who had placed his three daughters for education in a French convent, all the academies in England being full, and who expressed his surprise, on the Boulevard de Parnasse, that one of them should have turned Catholic. His subsequent appeal to the Chamber of Deputies unequalled by any production since Macpherson's Ossian.—Mr. Southey published a reply to Lord Byron, wherein he assaulted that eccentric nobleman with "whip and a branding iron:" the cause alleged to be the following paragraph in an opposition newspaper, under the head of "Births:"—"At his bookseller's, Mr. Robert Southey, of a still-born Vision of Judgment." The offence lenient: poetical parturitions ought to be commemorated. Constitutional Society kept at bay by Mr. Carlile by means of an apparatus in the Temple of Reason like that of a cheque-taker in a playhouse: red whiskers also kept at bay by Rowland's Macassar oil.—Country gentlemen "combining and confederating" like so many defendants in a suit of

**Chancery.**—Nothing *outré* during the present month on the part of Mr. Ex-sheriff Parkins; and not a single duel fought in the Phoenix Park by any gentleman with a name commencing with an O or a Mac!

**February.**—Olive, Princess of Cumberland, ejected from her lodgings on Ludgate-hill.—New tragedy at Drury-lane, called “Owen, Prince of Powys, or Welsh Feuds.”—Army of English critics overran the principality, and extinguished his highness and his feuds.—“The Pirate” bottled in theatrical spirits by Mr. Thomas Dibdin: too volatile: went to sea after a few nights’ confinement.—God save the King proved to be the private property of James the First.—Insurgent meeting of White Boys at Doneraile, where the following resolution was passed:—Resolved, that every thing coming from England be burnt except their coals, which we have occasion for.”—Speech from Mr. Thelwall at an agricultural meeting at Epsom; challenged to show where his landed estate lay; whereupon he quoted two bow-pots outside his window in Blackfriars-road.—Carlile’s Temple of Janus closed.—Orator Hunt’s wife permitted to visit him in Ilchester, on bringing her marriage-certificate in her pocket.—Vaccine Inoculation Report; small-pox on the increase, owing to careless vaccination, and the Reverend Rowland Hill admonished to grasp the pulpit-cushion and lay down the lancet.—Mozart’s modulation much shaken by Rossini’s rattle.—Injunction dissolved in *Murray v. Benbow*: Cain a mystery no longer.—One John Tye executed at the Old Bailey for uttering forged notes, and one Simon Shake applauded at Covent-garden for a similar offence.—Grand Chorus of “High Prices” sung by the country gentlemen at York.—The Rev. H. H. Milman produced the Martyr of Antioch, and the wife of a labouring man, at Enfield Chace, produced three male infants: the latter are doing well.—Cobbett proved to have changed his opinion of Sir Francis Burdett.—A still and a quantity of whisky carried off by a revenue party at Derry, with a mob of Irish peasantry clinging to them, like Aboulfaouris, the Persian, to the Loadstone Mountain.—No child killed by a Paddington coach.



**March.**—King of Spain lectured by the Cortes. He promises to do so no more.—A fire broke out on the premises of a bookseller in Paternoster-row, and over-broiled some beefsteaks at Dolly's chophouse.—Mr. Hume's "total of the whole" much discussed: Cobbett sends him his new Grammar.—A collection of penny-wisdom at the Paul's Head, Cateaton-street, to reimburse Carlile for his pound-foolishness in Fleet-street.—Death of Coutts the banker: his will opened in Stratton-street: only 900,000*l.* bequeathed to his poor widow: divers dandies observed to glance a look upward to the drawing-room window in their progress towards the Park.—Two silver cups voted to Mr. Kean by the inhabitants of New York, and a lighter laden with coals despatched at the same time to Newcastle.—A man unknown arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, and a woman unknown observed to tipple liquid at the bar of Hodges's prime proof repository in Fleet-market.—Lafitte, the Paris banker, much amazed by an application from the executors of one Napoleon Bonaparte.—Navy 5 per cents. slain by Mr. Vansittart, and a joint postmaster cut in two by Lord Normanby. Agricultural meeting at the Mermaid, Hackney: toleration of opinion recommended, and Sir J. Gibbons hooted down for acting under the recommendation.—Mr. Wyatt charged with attempting to cram a marble monument of George the Third down the throat of the public: John Bull has a capacious swallow, and the artist was tempted to put it to the proof.—Murder of Mrs. Donatty by persons unknown much talked of, and the murder of Sir Archy Macsarcasm by Kean not talked of at all.—*Coup de grace* to the Navy 5 per cents. given by Mr. Henry Hase: many Jews who attended the funeral seen the next day upon the Royal Exchange with beards half an inch long.—The King's Civil List treated uncivilly by Lord King.—Cinderella, at the Opera-house, exchanged her glass slipper for a bracelet, the former being two slippery to dance in.—Only twelve persons poisoned during the month from mistaking oxalic acid for Epsom salts.

*April.*—Easter-week ; all the city at Brighton, to the great annoyance of people of fashion who went there to avoid them : pony-chaises and the Rev. Dr. Pearson.—English in Paris estimated at 20,134 ; marshalled by the prefect in four divisions, viz. the idle, the sick, the needy, and the disaffected. Appeal to the Court of Cassation ; prefect's decree affirmed.—Nineteen labourers out of work at Stockbury ordered by overseers to play at marbles from nine in the morning to seven in the evening. Four of them, being widowers, went through the ring a second time, and were asked in church the Sunday following.—Constitutional Society, being indicted at the Old Bailey, held up their hands and down their heads.—Miss Foote much admired in Cherry and Fair Star.—The Tom and Jerry fever extending to all the minor theatres : nineteen watchmen prostrate with their boxes on their backs.—Preparations in Hyde Park for the reception of the Achilles of Phidias, on his elopement from the Quirinal Hill at Rome.—Planet Venus at the same time visible to the naked eye.—City Recorder elected *quamdiu se bene gesserit*.—New tread-mill erected at Brixton prison, and business at Union-hall consequently on the decline ; prisoners in Newgate comforted by Mrs. Fry, and business at the Old Bailey consequently on the increase.—Literary Fund Committee called upon to interdict Mr. Fitzgerald from spouting at their ensuing anniversary ; event doubtful, according to Cobbett, who holds that when a man is smitten with the sound of his own voice, nothing short of a sledge-hammer applied to his head will silence him.—Martin, the artist, descended into Herculaneum, and re-ascended not quite so plump as when he supped with Belshazzar.—Young Watson takes to new rum, and commits a burglary at Baltimore.—Grand steeple-chase near Blackwater, and a considerable running down of parsons in the columns of the Morning Chronicle.—A countryman at Clonmary, county of Donegal, discovered a bottle, and, to his infinite chagrin, in lieu of whisky, found it to contain a mere memorandum relative to the Arctic expedition.—Man unknown once more

arraigned, and again sported Junius.—Mr. Owen of Lanark's proposal to clothe all the poor in one uniform, and no religion.—Harlequin at the opera-house. Moses in Egypt changed into Peter the Hermit : many pilgrims from Paddington attended the crusade : all's fair in love and music.—Simile in the Irishman in London, "No more brains than a fiddler," gave great offence to the leader of the band.—Monsieur Paull vaulted from the Academy of Music in Paris, and descended on one foot in the Haymarket.—Mr. Kean played Osmyn, in the Castle Spectre, and nearly "made a ghost" of his theatrical reputation.—Private theatricals at the Lyceum; young Matthews, in *La Comédie d'Etampes*, dubbed a chip of the old block.—Nobody killed by drawing the trigger of a loaded fowling-piece, not knowing it to be charged.

*May*.—Horse-bazaar at King Street barracks: impossible to say *nay* to any proffered filly, mocking being rude.—Good beer began to trickle into the cellars of public-houses, owing to a stir at St. Stephen's.—Agricultural report: patience and water-gruel recommended to country gentlemen. Song, "I love high rents," sung by Sir F. Burdett.—Piece of plate presented to Alderman Wood; family arms sought for in vain; surrendered on his assumption of the gown; "*cedunt arma togæ*."—The lord chancellor gave judgment on the Doge of Venice, who had, in the mean time, wedded the waters of oblivion.—One hundred acres of land, in Venezuela, sold by Bolivar at a penny an acre: Mr. Birkbeck outbidden.—Othello stabbed and smothered his wife to a fiddlestick accompaniment at the opera-house.—Mr. Yates, in the *Law of Java*, mistaken for Ramo Samee, the Indian juggler.—Marriage Act Amendment Bill much canvassed; clause proposed by Lord Erskine, contract determinable every seven years, on six months' previous notice.—Anniversary dinner of the Literary Fund; chairman's hammer not a sledge one; Mr. Fitzgerald's consequent recitation.—Mr. Horatio Orton's dog snatched a hasty repast from the calf of Mr. Ex-sheriff Parkins's leg.—No women run over in Oxford Street, in

consequence of crossing the coachway without looking to the right or to the left.

*June.*—Expansion of Mr. Baring's new mansion in Piccadilly, to the utter extermination of the western side of Bolton Row.—Sparring-match at St. Stephen's between Mr. Pascoe Grenfell and the Bank of England.—Exhibition at Somerset House; irruption of one-shilling critics; many a "man unknown," from being designated in the catalogue, "portrait of a gentleman;" Hercules in the hall looked gloomy, in apparent envy of the more airy elevation of his naked friend in Hyde Park.—Affray of wild Irish in Peter Street, Westminster; Polito rebuked by the magistrates for not keeping his cages better bolted.—Opening of Vauxhall Gardens, after being for the ninety-ninth time consigned to the woodman's axe: gardens alleged to unite the varieties of Vauxhall with the elegancies of Ranelagh, like the boy's penny-worth of cheese, which he required to have very long and very thick: new rotatory piece of mechanism, entitled *Hep-tap-las-ies-op-tron*, and a dentist's man in waiting to pick up the broken teeth of the pronouncers.—Dinner at the Horns, Kennington, Sir Robert Wilson in the chair: all general reflections consequently avoided.—Wanstead House advertised for sale. All the world on the Whitechapel Road: Epping Forest strewn with gigs, unharnessed hackneys, and remnants of cold veal and pigeon-pie.—Sale of the Fortunes of Nigel checked by that of Robins's catalogue.—Little Waddington elevated from a blanket in Newgate, and discounts in Threadneedle Street depressed to 4 per cent.—Mrs. Olivia Serres swore an affidavit with a documental appendix in the Prerogative Court, Doctor's Commons.—Plague reported to have broken out in London: two runners despatched by the Lord Mayor to St. Thomas's and St. Bartholomew's to ascertain the fact; but their names being Fogg and Leadbetter, they brought back but a confused and heavy story.—Don Antonio Francisco Zea arrived in London from the republic of Colombia: Spanish bonds at a consequent premium, and the Royal Exchange swarmed with foreign brokers. Seven shop-

keepers on Ludgate Hill, who had recently taken advantage of the Insolvent Act, were poisoned by drinking seven glasses of noyeau double the usual strength.—End of Trinity Term, attended by a great diminution of black coats and white buckles in the purlieus of Chancery Lane.—Beautiful hill and dale in the Piccadilly pavement.

*July.*—Clara Fisher, at the Lyceum, played Crack, a drunken cobbler, in the Turnpike Gate: “train up a child in the way it should go.”—Tread-mill adopted in Cold Bath Fields prison.—Achilles mounted in Hyde Park; several breaches made in the wall, but not one pair made for the statue.—Annual regatta of the Funny Club; members rowed in their shirts to the Castle at Richmond in a soaking shower: odd notions of fun.—Death of John Emery the comedian.—Haymarket theatre much frequented; “a day’s pleasure productive of a night’s.—Only one man horsewhipped by Barry O’Meara, and he the wrong one.

*August.*—English players at the Porte St. Martin, in Paris: open with Othello: a wise selection, considering the objection of the French to slaughter on a stage: Moore of Venice damned, and Desdemona hit by a penny-piece.—The King embarked at Greenwich for Scotland: not a Caledonian visible during his absence, even at the India House: all being, or affecting to be, at the levee at Holyrood House. “Carle now the King’s come:” highly interesting to those who understand it.—Lord Portsmouth, frightened at the advent of majesty, abruptly quitted Edinburgh.—Viscount Newry, aided by his five servants, rowed from Oxford to London in eighteen hours: not a scull in the boat.—Fonthill Abbey on sale, and Wanstead House no more remembered: Salisbury plain covered by women eager to gain admission: run of the piece stopped by Farquhar’s “Stratagem.”—John Paterson, aged fifty, married at St. Anne’s, Soho, to Jane Barclay, aged eighteen: no cause assigned for the rash action.

*September.*—Return of the King to London: Scotts still insufferable; the swell taking time to abate: plan

of erecting a Parthenon on Calton Hill : Auld Reekie to be christened Modern Athens.—Great demand for fowling pieces at Mortimer's in Fleet Street : not a cockney, from Savage Gardens to Skinner Street, that did not talk of bagging his threg brace.—The Lutine frigate, with 200,000*l.* on board : vessel meant to be weighed by a projector at Lloyd's, but consequences weighed at Amsterdam, and the scheme interdicted.—New marriage Act threatens to annihilate that ceremony.—Death of Sir William Herschel, and discovery of a new comet without a tail. Dinner given to Mr. Hume at Aberdeen : nothing on table but Peter's Brown loaf : "Thrift, thrift, Horatio."—Statement of a civic dinner given at Norwich in 1516 : amount of bill, 1*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* : utterly disbelieved by Sir W. Curtis.—A man of fashion seen in London, who made no excuse for being there in September : the crowd was immense.

*October.*—Alterations in the interior of Drury Lane Theatre : opening address of G. Colman : abolition of stage doors : great shifting of actors from one house to the other : stars changed to comets.—Congress at Verona.—London still a desert : but junior merchants and clerks in public offices occasionally seen stealing through the streets.—The French ministers presented their compliments to Sir Robert Wilson, and requested the favour of his absence from France. His appeal to his constituents, who will probably order the decree to be rescinded.—Turkey and Greece : letter from Paris, telling the British public all about it.—Colombian bonds at a high premium, and the holders lords of Peru and Potosi.—Appearance of "The Liberal" from the South : so called by the godfather of the Serpentine river, who gave it that name because it was neither serpentine nor a river.—Stoppage of Mr. Bowring at Calais, and his removal to Boulogne : his eulogy as a Russian anthologist. Death of Mrs. Garrick at Hampton ; extract from Leo Lewis, proving her to be daughter to the Earl of Burlington, and, consequently, proprietor of the mansion in Piccadilly bearing that name. Scramble among the dilettanti for little David's original Hogarths.—Mermaid exhibited

in St. James's Street: said by some to have died of the stitch, and by others to have been produced by Mrs. Salmon in Monkey Island.—Alderman Wood seen on the Maidstone road, riding between two packsaddles, laden with samples of hops.—Marriage Act still much criticised, notwithstanding which seven bachelors were married in one day, at the parish church of St. Andrew's, Holborn. A clergyman attended to give the unhappy wretches the last consolations of religion.

*November.*—Commencement of Michaelmas term: attorneys brandishing their pens: plaintiffs and defendants loitering about Oliver's coffee-house.—Reported abduction of Lord Byron to South America: death of Mr. Zea: consequent tumble of Colombian bonds down a precipice of twenty-five per cent.—Lords, in reversion, of Potosi and Peru left sprawling in the mire, and many dozens of dry champagne advertised for sale considerably under prime cost.—Liberation of Orator Hunt: his procession through London, and radical dinner at the Shepherd and Shepherdess. About the same time Mount Vesuvius began to grumble: and in both cases "repeated shocks and internal howlings were heard from the mountain."—Congress continued sitting at Verona with closed doors and plugged key-holes: much conjecture consequently afloat. The Opera-house end of Pall Mall was much alarmed by an explosion of gas. Signor Zuchelli's elegance was sadly scorched; and Madame Camporese forcibly driven into two of Madame Ronzi di Begni's characters. Signor Ambrogetti's voice has not been heard of since.—The British ambassador's letter-bag was tied up, and much epistolary grumbling consequently confined to the gizzards of the English exiles at Paris.—Auxiliary Bible-meeting at the Mansion House: a great pouring out of clergymen and old women down the front steps of that edifice, who were mistaken by the multitude for disorderly people of the night preceding. A committee appointed of twenty males and as many females, "with power to add to their numbers."—Lord Portsmouth horsewhipped by his lady, to verify the dictum of Orator Hunt, that all the fair

sex are reformers.—A million bushels of human bones were landed at Hull from the fields of Dresden and Waterloo : human bones best adapted to fertilise land, whence we derive the word *man-ure*.—Galignani's Messenger gave an account of a parting dinner given to Anacreon Moore by the English in Paris. His speech on the occasion was not so well timed as well spoken : it implied that there was nothing like England after all : a strange observation in the hearing of those who preferred France before all.—Extraordinary effort of galvanism upon the body of an attempt made by the Rev. Mr. Colton to latinise Gray's Elegy.—Another new tragedy from Lord Byron, entitled *Werner* : less obnoxious to church-goers than its predecessor, but more so to criticism.—A caution to resurrection-men : one Simon Spade, a body-snatcher, while sounding for subjects in St. Martin's church-yard, dug up his own wife. The poor man has been inconsolable ever since.—Several fogs were seen gathering round the Serpentine river and Paddington Canal. The Royal Humane Society's man, consequently, on the watch : notwithstanding which, the average November quantity of men and women put a period to their existence : the former, as usual, for money, the latter for love.

*December.*—Great demand for post-horses at Verona, in consequence of the abrupt dissolution of the Congress.—Lord John Russell's new tragedy, two editions in one week : and an Episcopal visitation sermon too weak for one edition.—Bethel Watermen's Reform Society, Sheriff Thompson in the chair : drag-net to sweep off all aquatic execrations : "damns have had their day : " Bibles in brigs, and prayer-books in punts.—Strange monsters imported by Polito, consisting of an intellectual dandy, a civil radical, and an actor without a grievance : also a blue-stocking breeder, and a tortoise-shell tom-cat : the mob nearly overpowered the constables.—Sad sameness of Christmas dinners. "Chine nods at chine, each turkey has a brother : " every table-spoon in the house flaming with burnt brandy.—Infallible cures for chilblains.—Proposals published for a Sub-way Com-



pany, to repair London gas and water-pipes without breaking up the pavement: much patronised by Bond Street fashionables, who were naturally desirous of taking a subterraneous walk toward the city, to borrow money, and by so doing to avoid a rencontre with those with whom they had already undergone that ceremony.—Kean and Young in *Othello*; “The Douglas and the Percy both in arms.”—Dance of actors from both theatres; foot it and hey “contrary sides.”—Diabolical attempt to poison a whole family at breakfast, in Lombard Street, by putting Paine’s *Age of Reason* under the tea-pot: providentially none of the family could read.—Growing civility of sweeps, dustmen, and patrols: plainly denoting that the era of Christmas-boxes is at hand.—Boys arm-in-arm and three abreast, aping manhood along Fleet Street, with Cossack trousers and bamboo canes.—Grave papas, usually seen about without an accompaniment, were met dragging along children in couples, and occasionally stopping to peep into toy-shop windows.—Premature twelfth-cakes stealing behind confectioners’ counters: striplings of sixteen walking half ashamed arm-in-arm with maiden aunts from whom the family has expectations.—Grimaldi and the new pantomime: front rows filled by urchins, who, at every knock-down-blow, fling back their flaxen polls, in delight, into the laps of their chuckling parents on the seat behind.—Magnificent prospectuses from divers new Utopian Magazines.—Bellman and lamplighter run up the sides of Parnassus.—A great issuing of orders to tailors on the 31st of December, for apparel to be sent home the week following, and thus to evade re-appearing in the present year’s bill. Awful events, which too plainly denote that that *Annus Mirabilis*, the year 1822, is hastening to the “Tomb of all the Capulets!”

## ANNUS MIRABILIS! OR, A PARTHIAN GLANCE AT 1823.

*January.*—Dr. Doyle, a Roman Catholic bishop, in his pastoral charge, recommends Orangemen to be *civil* Orangemen, and Papists not to be bigoted: nothing new under the sun: Sir Joseph Jekyll, in the reign of Queen Anne, bequeathed his fortune to government to pay off the national debt; and a half-witted waterman, in the reign of George the Third, moored his boat to the centre arch of Loudon Bridge, and tried to catch the tide in his bob-wig.—The Duke of Sussex swallows an embrocation at Bangor that was meant for a fomentation; Royal Dukes at public dinners have swallowed stranger things, and no danger apprehended.—Salt-tax diminished by thirteen shillings a bushel, but still no improvement in modern comedy: new pieces generally offensive after the third night.—A Chancery suit in the good old times recorded to have lasted 120 years, Old Parr being clerk in court, and Henry Jenkins solicitor.—Clara Fisher at Drury Lane Theatre pronounced to be only nine years of age: hint taken from her patronesses the Aonian maids, who have been only nine since the days of Apollo. She is advertised in “Old and Young:” much curiosity is excited as to which part she means to perform.—Simpkin and Co. successful by mere dint of dialogue: actors much amazed, not knowing what to do for an upper gallery in the event of the sky falling.—Golden axe laid to the root of the dead pantomime.—Great improvements in Billingsgate Market: wholesale and retail departments kept separate: *railing* fixed by proper land-marks: no lady allowed to hold forth for more than five minutes at a time; and if two or more Naiads utter the same execration, oath to be put up again.—Canonical clergy of Durham *convivially* defended by the Rev. Dr. *Phil-pots*: to the best of his knowledge and belief, not a stall in the diocese that does not contain an animal over-worked and under-fed.—Serpentine river covered with skaters: usual average of human heads just peeping above the

slippery horizon : printed notice of the Humane Society to the public, not to venture on, actually obeyed by three individuals : one of them a woman with a child in her arms : whole mob in arms at the prodigy !—Judith O'Clark prosecuted by Excise at Kilkenny for having an illicit *still*, which she had contrived to conceal behind her teeth for fifteen minutes : an effort which nearly cost the poor creature her life.

*February.*—Several wild swans seen flying over Brighton, to the no small amazement of several tame geese who happened to be waddling along the Steine : the bills of the former said to be three inches long : those of the latter much longer.—Moore's Loves of the Angels : two omitted, viz. one at Islington, and the other at the back of St. Clement's.—King James's crown jewels dramatically exhibited at Covent Garden Theatre : rather too late for profit : fashion of them a little on the wane, being superseded by subsequent brilliants from the same shop.—Great and expensive preparations making to prove Lord P—— out of his wits : self-evident propositions being at a discount.—Law changes : Daniel Whittle Harvey, in his road from an attorney's office to a barrister's chambers, waylaid and knocked down by a body of benchers.—Oratorios during Lent : sacred beautifully dovetailed with profane, viz. "Ye spotted snakes" with the "Beautiful Maid," "Together let us range the Fields" with "Deeper and deeper still," and "Slow broke the Light" with "Hey for the merry Blind Boy !"—Two Englishmen by mistake confined all night in the catacombs at Paris : let out next morning by means of a skeleton-key.—Valentine's-day : Mr. Freeling applies to the postmaster-general for two wagons to convey the extra letters, and for permission to get them drawn by the asinine inditers, yoked two and two.

*March.*—Action brought by Mr. Cruikshank against proprietor of stage-coach for breaking his leg : most ungrateful return for an intended benefit.—Letter in the Paris papers, announcing that a young man had been kicked out of one of the Hells at the west end of Lon-

don: plain proof of the superiority of the Moderns: "evadere ad auras" not so easy in Æneas's time.—Lord *Manners* refuses to dine with Lord Lieutenant: Qu. title in abeyance when the note was transmitted? Mademoiselle Mercandotti is married to Hughes Ball: consequent investment of the lady with a noble birth: shrewd hints of Scottish origin: Garrick and Mademoiselle Violetti quoted as a case in point: sad consequences of the alliance in a series of epigrams in the *Morning Post*: the lady's original appearance alleged to have been in Pandora—the worst box in the King's Theatre.—Fifty cabriolets are licensed to ply on hackney-coach stands: "We're a' nodding," in consequence, more popular than ever.

*April*.—Month ushered in by divers hoaxes suitable to its first day: among others, Age of Bronze palmed upon Lord Byron.—New London Bridge: one alderman votes in the teeth of his own convenience: another even consents to the removal of Fishmongers'-hall, notwithstanding the consequent loss of a monthly dinner there of no ordinary excellence: it is to be hoped that these instances of patriotism will meet their sweetest reward in the whisper of an applauding conscience.—Old woman taken for a witch at Taunton, and Mr. Ex-Sheriff Parkins for the Goddess Justice, in London, owing to his skill in holding a balance in hand.—Smart farce written by a titled dandy: and alarm of fire given by a monkey.—Cork mail runs one day without being fired at from behind a hedge—"Then is doomsday near."

*May*.—Opening of Vauxhall Gardens, and consequent rise in the price of umbrellas.—Lady Mayoress's Easter ball: great scrambling after ices in the Egyptian-hall—Query, *Isis*?—Easter hunt: droves of unhorsed Londoners find their way as they can from Epping Forest to Bishopsgate-street—"all on foot he fights."—Opening of annual exhibition at Somerset House: great influx of one-shilling critics, who know as much of the matter as the blue cheque taken at the door.—More "Portrait of a Gentleman" than usual.—Why not make the catalogue-printer prove his words,

and thus reduce the number to a snug coterie of some half-dozen ! Portrait of Mr. Barber Beaumont arrayed in an objectionable pair of pantaloons, casting a longing look at his own fire-office.—Desdemona is smothered at the Opera-house in the embraces of Rossini.—Wanstead-house, which cost 300,000*l.* knocked down for 10,000*l.*—"I will stand the hazard of the die."—First appearance of Quentin Durward, and consequent dissension in divers book-clubs, each member thinking his predecessor detains it from him out of mere spite.—Only five men kicked out of the Canton coffee-house for saying that they have not read it.

*June.*—An old soldier advertises to quell *the* Irish rebellion for 10,000*l.*:—Query, *which* of them?—London sub-ways ; plan of Mr. John Williams, of Cornhill, for constructing subterraneous passages under the streets; much patronized by divers young citizens, who have reasons of their own for not wishing to face their tailors.—The Princess Olive of Cumberland's manifesto to her faithful subjects the Poles.—Flowers of Billingsgate mutually scattered by Alderman Rowcroft and Mr. Hunt: the latter bound over by the Lord Mayor to keep the peace ; a ceremony voluntarily performed by him for many years last past.

*July.*—Fête given by the Marquess of Hertford at Queensberry-house, Richmond: the Duke of Devonshire keeps his heart, but loses his hat.—"Sweethearts and Wives," notwithstanding the dissimilarity of their attractions, much approved of at the Haymarket Theatre.—The proprietors of Vauxhall Gardens inform the public that "nothing can damp their ardour ;" certainly, if the present weather cannot, nothing can.—Tom and Jerry are killed at the Cobourg Theatre.—By a fatal accident (and it may be added an unaccountable one) the *perpetual* curate of Sawley loses his life.—Westminster improvements: New Law Courts said to be "so built as to be uniform:" arrangement highly approved of by the public, several of whom have heretofore been turned round and whisked out of the Court of King's Bench before they knew where they were, while

others have spent a whole life in the Court of Chancery without being able to find their way out.—Much money taken at a door in Fleet-street by a speculator, who exhibited, at a shilling a head, a live man who had *not* been to Fonthill Abbey.

*August.*—Ezekiel Cohen, a Jew, is cruelly prosecuted for merely assuming the character of an attorney. The ghost of John Knox (calling itself Irving) makes its appearance in Cross-street, Hatton Garden, arrayed in black whiskers and a dandy shirt collar.—Rossini, the Italian composer, nearly killed by eating six fat lobsters, to qualify himself to sing “(O) Piscator del’ onda.”—Prince Hohenlohe miraculously cures a “lady of respectability, who had been for many years one of the religious community of *Ranelagh* :” the chief part of the miracle being the conversion of a fashionable community into a religious one.—A married churchwarden at Dundee by mistake writes his own name in the register in lieu of that of the bridegroom: “Insatiate archer, would not one suffice !”—The canal in St. James’s Park cleansed of its impurities by mistake instead of the Mall.—Meeting at the Freemasons’ Tavern, to decide whether Mrs. Serres shall or shall not be Princess of Cumberland: decided in the negative, but resolved that she shall be Princess of Poland: a decision satisfactory to her Royal Highness, *diet* being her object.—Mr. Graham seeming disposed not to mount in his balloon from White Conduit House Gardens, several of the mob throw brick-bats at him to make him fly.

*September.*—Tithes raised in three London parishes: inhabitants advised to use Rowland’s Kalydor, which “affords a pleasing relief after shaving.”—More controversy between Mr. Owen of Lanark and the Presbytery of that ilk: in spite of the parallelograms of the former, people in general no better than they should be. A London Gazette is published without a single *whereas*: in the evening several tradesmen illuminated their houses.—Fall of the Trocadero announced upon the Royal Exchange: benevolent hope expressed by an alderman that

it did not hurt anybody.—“The Great Unknown” is damned at the Haymarket Theatre, after undergoing that ceremony from all the romance writers of Great Britain.—Death of Robert Bloomfield the poet: dismay and surprise of several sentimental young ladies on finding that the Farmer’s Boy was fifty-six years old.—New coinage of *double* sovereigns: much cavilled at by Sir W. C., who hoped that William and Mary would have proved the last.

*October.*—A Mr. Dando summoned before the Lord Mayor on a charge of detaining the money of another person: he is discharged as incurable, on pleading that he spells his name with a *y*.—Law courts at Westminster in a progressive state: “the memorable old pump” said to be “still suffered to remain;” who can possibly be meant?—The Wesleyan Missionary Society despatch two emissaries to labour in Palestine, and a like number to Eutopia.—Cobbett *versus* Levy, lessee of the Kensington tolls: much mutual objurgation before the Bow Street magistrates: plaintiff proves defendant a Jew, but the latter fails in proving his adversary a Christian.—Lord Cochrane in the Brazilian line-of-battle ship, Don Pedro the First, shows an unabated love of prize-money.—Several instances of somnambulism in the theatrical world: actors and actresses seen groping their way in Little Russell Street and Hart Street through the stage-doors of the wrong theatre: playgoers much puzzled to know where to find them.—Captain Parry returns from the North Pole, and meets with a degree of coldness not experienced by him in Baffin’s Bay.—Tomb of Baron Swedenborg opened, and the deceased found to have no head: letter from one of his disciples to Mr. Sylvanus Urban, showing that he lost it before he wrote his *Arcana Celestia*.

*November.*—Several stray murders lying at the police-offices to be owned, were claimed by the wrong proprietors.—The abbey church of Romsey broken into by some thieves, but the nave of the church happening to be in the pulpit escaped their sacrilegious clutches.—Mr. Maberly’s horse-bazaar is removed to the winter

theatres.—Much mischief done on the fifth of November, being Guy Faux day, but much more done on the sixth, being the first day of Term.—Lord Mayor's day : numerous females at open windows, with bare throats gazing at nothing till something comes, and then closing the casement on account of the cold.—A woman pitched from the roof of the Fortitude Kentish Town coach into an undertaker's shop, and escaped with only a few slight bruises, to the great mortification of the sable shop-keeper.—The Reverend C. C. Colton made a bankrupt as a wine-merchant : no good ever comes of preaching over one's liquor.—Providential escape ! the elbows of nine fiddlers, at the Cateaton Street concert, gave way, and fell down with a tremendous crash ; fortunately nobody was near.—The author of Waverly said to have a curious mode of acquainting his domestics with his wants, by having the words "breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper," painted upon a board. N. B. The only poet on record who can call for four meals in a day.—A 50*l.* bill said to be swallowed by a donkey at Liverpool, and a printed statement of it swallowed by several of the species in London.

*December.*—Meeting of Common Council at Guildhall to propose a statue to Riego : ditto in Lincoln's-Inn Hall to propose a statue to Lord Erskine : ditto in Leadenhall to propose a statue to Mr. Charles Grant : a Scotch India stock-holder proposes that they should be clubbed together in the character of the three Graces, and that Sandy Mac-chisel, the stone-mason in Argyll Street, should have the job.—Royal Society of Literature offer a new premium for poetry : not a garret in Grub street to be had.—Ghost of John Knox taketh unto itself a wife, to be shade of its shade : less knocking and scratching in Cross street than heretofore : mysteries, moralities, and Drury Lane dramas all end with a marriage. Doctrinal points all undecided ;

One thinks on Calvin Heaven's own spirit fell,  
Another deems him instrument of Hell.

Dreadful storm of wind blows over the metropolis : me-  
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lancholy effects thereof: Sir Walter Stirling cannot keep his hat upon his head: an eddy of the remorseless gale carries divers school-boys prematurely to town for the Christmas holidays: numerous caitiffs in white great-coats are blown from their own houses into those of other people, muttering something about the compliments of the season: flights of Norfolk turkeys are driven to London: dinner-cards whisk through the air bringing heterogeneous relations together on Christmas-day: gallanti-showmen can hardly keep their legs: red morocco almanacs sail about on the wings of the wind, and the venders of them, from fear of a falling stack of chimneys, are forced to take refuge in the first blind alley, where the few of them that read Horace, reflect, that the year 1823 is rapidly following her departed sister, and exclaim

“Eheu! fugaces, Posthume, Posthume,  
Labuntur Anni.”

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## REVIEW OF

A NEW SYSTEM OF DOMESTIC COOKERY, FORMED UPON PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMY, AND ADAPTED TO THE USE OF PRIVATE FAMILIES. BY A LADY.—*A new edition, corrected. London, printed for John Murray, Fleet-street, J. Harding, St. James's-street, and A. Constable and Co., Edinburgh. 7s. 6d.*

[From the London Review.]

The three booksellers to whom the world is indebted for this ingenious treatise on the Art of Eating and Drinking, could not have been more happily marshalled by a king-at-arms than they are in the title-page of this work. Mr. John Murray lives within the city walls, and is, upon that account, *positively* the best judge of cookery. Mr. J. Harding, of a more courtly residence, may *comparatively* possess some knowledge of the subject; but Messrs. A. Constable and Co., of Edinburgh, must be pronounced by all impartial judges *superlatively* unfit to give evidence in the cause. A work which treats of oyster-patties, green peas, ratafia cream, and London

syllabub, must be as much a "sealed book" to our Scottish neighbours as that northern luminary Allan Ramsay is to us darkling natives of the south. The only effect which it can produce in the shop window of the aforesaid A. Constable and Co. is to quicken their countrymen in their journey southward, (like the hay before the horse's nose in Ireland,) and thus to overcome that bashful repugnance to visiting England, which has ever been the characteristic of a North Briton.

As a striking title is half the battle, ought not our authoress, in policy, to have entitled her book "The Belly and the Members," and dedicated it to our representatives in parliament? This would have established her fame in a moment, and consigned old Menenius Agrippa's fable of that name to merited oblivion. The great object of the great mass of mankind, *docti indoctique*, is to eat. From the savage of Terra del Fuego, whose food is worms extracted from decayed wood, to the peripatetic of Bond-street, who, having performed the morning's duties, regales on turtle and iced champagne; and, while he picks his teeth, eyes with disdain the ignoble herd through the green lattices of Steven's Hotel, it may be stated, as an indisputable fact, that man is a cooking animal, and increases in civilisation in proportion to the beauty and variety of the produce of his saucepans. The degeneracy of the Jew may, upon this principle, be fairly ascribed to the train-oil that meanders through his viands. The debased condition of the negro may safely be imputed to the yams and cassava which he dignifies with the name of dinner; and what political efforts can this country ever expect from the Dutch, when we reflect that they jumble bacon and butter-milk in the same dish, and feed upon cheeses, which can only be compared to cannon balls impregnated with salt?

Homer's poetical proser, old Nestor, considered man a cooking animal; so thought the renowned James Boswell, that twinkling star in the great belt of the *Saturnine* moralist; and the observation enabled Mr. Burke to account for the old proverb—there's reason in roasting of eggs.

With this great truth in view, how much obliged ought the public to feel to a lady who, instead of inditing sonnets to the moon, and feeding the minds of her readers through the medium of the Minerva press, has preferred the more laudable pursuit of catering for the stomach, and has produced a work, at which the Hannah Glasses and the Farleys may hide their diminished larders. Half of an author's merit arises from the choice of his subject. A new system of religion was out of the question; and systems of politics are as shifting as the sands of Scamander under the foot of Achilles. An improved treatise on music, or dancing, might indeed have made many proselytes in this fiddling and jumping age; yet still the deaf and the gouty would not have become purchasers. But a new system of cookery, embracing all the contents of the table-cloth, *ab oro usque ad mala*, is universally and perpetually interesting. When a superannuated general is fighting his battles over again, and in his narrative cuts off the wing of an army, one is apt to yawn. How different is the sensation, if he is cutting off the wing of a wild fowl! John Duke of Argyll was a great man in his day: he is now *hors de combat* in Westminster Abbey; and I entreat the noble family of Campbell to reflect, that the *Argyll* which saves gravy from coagulating, is the golden urn that shall long preserve the ashes of their illustrious house from oblivion. The Duke is now cold, but our gravy is hot. Who does not remember Queen Catharine's character of Cardinal Wolsey?—

“He was a man  
Of an unbounded stomach, ever ranking  
Himself with princes.”

My interpretation of this passage, with all due deference to Mr. Douce, is, that he was a man who *gave excellent dinners*. Allow me this, and the enigma of his “ranking himself with princes” is instantly solved.

We will not, however, multiply cases to prove a self-evident proposition, but proceed to the work under review; which is introduced by an advertisement, wherein

we are informed, "the following directions were intended for the conduct of the families of the authoress's own daughters, and for the arrangement of their table." But the young ladies, I suppose, being unable to decipher their mamma's cramp manuscript, or, as puddings and pies were the subject of her pen, "obliged by *hunger* and request of friends," she has consented to roll into the world in the puff-paste shape of a thick duodecimo.

"How rarely," exclaims our authoress, in a pathetic tone, "do we meet with fine melted butter!" This calamity was not overlooked by our immortal bard, whose Moor of Venice bewails his want of that article with tears—

"Unused to the *melling mood*,  
Dropt tears as fast as the Arabian trees  
'Their medicinal gums."

And now, reader, having despatched the advertisement, we enter the vestibule of the temple, the Preface, consisting of "Miscellaneous observations, for the use of the mistress of a family." It is a good old custom with the race that write, to consider the topic under their immediate discussion as the most important subject of inquiry that can agitate the feelings of man. Mrs. Barbauld promotes Richardson, without any remorse, over the head of poor Fielding; and Mr. Hayley would fain make his mole-hill Cowper overtop mount Milton. If an author does not appear in earnest, it is all over with him. "How the deuce can you expect me to grieve, (says Horace,) if you don't appear to grieve yourself?"

The authoress of Domestic Cookery was aware of this rule, when she introduced her miscellaneous observations with a sentence which the hero of Bolt-court himself might not have blushed to pen. "In every rank those deserve the greatest praise who best acquit themselves of the duties which their station requires. Indeed, this line of conduct is not a matter of choice, but of necessity, if we would maintain the dignity of our own characters as rational beings."

When I had proceeded thus far, I hastily turned the leaves, fearing that I had, by mistake, dipped into the *Rambler*; but happening to alight upon a green goose-pie, and knowing that the sage had never discussed that topic, I returned to the preface.

Our heroine of jams and jellies thus proceeds: "In the variety of female acquirements, though domestic occupations stand not so high as they formerly did, yet, when neglected, they produce much *human misery*. [*Here sighs a jar.*] There was a time when ladies knew nothing *beyond* their own family concerns. [*Here a goose-pie talks.*] But in the present day there are many who know nothing *about* them."

Ah, madam! this is a sober truth, though epigrammatically expressed. But, under favour, is it not something like the conceited cook, in the fragment of the Greek poet Straton, who says to his master—

"What! speak as Homer does;  
And sure a cook may use like privilege,  
And more than a blind poet."

But mark the surly answer of the cook's master:

Not with me!  
I'll have no kitchen Homers in my house;  
So, pray, discharge yourself."

The Lady Bountifuls have, I confess, quitted the stage, and the Lady Townleys reign in their stead. Who now is so brutal as to expect that those delicate fingers which, when employed on the piano-forte, emulate in whiteness the keys they rattle, shall be degraded to crack the claw of a lobster, or squeeze reluctant pickles into a jar? Even in the days of Pope, it was one of the many subjects of complaint of that irritable bard, that—

"Our wives read Milton, and our daughters plays."

And though, in the sixty-four years which have elapsed since his death, our wives may have changed this course of reading, yet it may be doubted whether they are a whit more wedded to the kitchen than heretofore. The

German Mrs. Haller is represented in a mobcap, with a bunch of keys at her girdle, the keeper of the paradise of pastry ; but Mrs. Siddons decorates that frail lady with long drapery, and a yellow muslin turban. Fashion, however, will do much, and as our authoress's domestic cookery is universally read, let us hope that the modes of life will change, and that it will be as much the rage to stay at home to save money, as it now is to go abroad to spend it.

Our fair purveyor of patty-pans is gifted with that variety of style which, like her own recipes, is calculated to please all palates.

“Milton's strong opinions now not heaven can bound,  
Now serpent-like, in prose, he sweeps the ground.”

She informs us that “to make home the sweet refuge of a husband fatigued by intercourse with a jarring world, to be his enlightened companion and the chosen friend of his heart, these are woman's duties ;” and she adds, in the same breath, “candles made in cool weather are best.” The reader is no sooner apprised that “a pious woman will build up her house before God,” than he is told “the price of starch depends upon that of flour.” Talents here find themselves placed in the same sentence with treacle ; custards are coupled with conjugal fidelity, and moral duties with macaroni. This obliquity of pen, “one eye on earth, the other fixed on heaven,” is the only sure mode of pleasing all readers. It forms the genuine hill and dale of style, and, when bounded by a modern meadow of margin, bids fair to circulate through ten editions.

And now, reader, prepare yourself for a lecture on *carving*. “Some people (says our authoress) *haggle* meat so much as not to be able to help half a dozen persons decently from a large tongue or a surloin of beef ; and the *dish* goes away with the appearance of having been gnawed by dogs.”

Most dogs that have come under my cognizance, would be better pleased to gnaw the *meat* than the *dish* ; but putting that aside, it must be allowed to be a monstrous

thing for the seventh expectant, to be watching for a slice from a surloin which is destined to be wasted on six persons! Our lady, however, must in this instance be considered as rather hypercritical, few persons being so uninitiated in the mysteries of the blade, as to be unable to carve a tongue or a surloin: but to be placed opposite a pig, a goose, or a hare, and to possess no more skill in the art than the executioner of the Duke of Monmouth, is indeed one of the miseries of human life. I most sincerely wish I could transplant these dainties to the pages of this review, but, since that cannot be, let me at least do all I can by extracting the rules for dissecting them.

*“Sucking Pig.”*—The cook usually decorates the body before it is sent to table, and garnishes the dish with the jaws and ears.” (If she do not, she deserves to lose her own ears.) “The first thing is to separate a shoulder from the carcass on one side, and then the leg, according to the directions given by the dotted line *a, b, c*. The ribs are then to be divided into about two *helpings*, and an ear or jaw presented with them, and *plenty of sauce*. The joints may either be divided into two each, or pieces may be cut from them. The ribs are reckoned the finest part, but some people prefer the neck end between the shoulders.” Here is a difference of opinion between all people and some people, which is left to the arbitration of other people.

*“Goose.”*—Cut off the apron in the circular line *a, b, c*, in the figure opposite the last page, and pour into the body a glass of port wine, and a large teaspoonful of mustard, first mixed at the sideboard. Turn the neck of the goose towards you, and cut the whole breast in long lines from one wing to another; but only remove them as you help each person, unless the company is so large as to require the legs likewise.”

If the eaters are so many, woe betide the goose; there will be nothing left of it for the next day.

“This way gives more prime bits than by making  
 . Take off the leg by putting the fork into the  
 end of the bone, passing it to the body, and having

passed the knife at *d*, turn the leg back, and, if a young bird, it will easily separate."

Let our army and navy surgeons take notice that this instruction is not meant for them.

"To take off the wing, put your fork into the small end of the pinion, and press it close to the body; then put in the knife at *d*, and divide the joint, taking it down in the direction *d*, *e*. Nothing but practice will enable people to hit the joint exactly at the first trial.\* When the leg or wing of one side are done, go on to the other; but it is not often necessary to cut up the whole goose, unless the company be very large. There are two side bones by the wing, which may be cut off, as likewise the back and lower side-bones: but the best pieces are the breast and the thighs, after being divided from the drumsticks."

"*Hare*.—The best way of cutting it up is to put the point of the knife under the shoulder at *a*, in the figure opposite the next page, and so cut all the way down to the rump on one side of the back bone, in the line *a*, *b*. Do the same on the other side, so that the whole hare will be divided into three parts. Cut the back part into four, which, with the legs, is the part most esteemed. The shoulders must be cut off in a circular line, as *c*, *d*, *a*: lay the pieces neatly on the dish as you cut them, and then help the company, giving some pudding and gravy to every person.† This way can only be practised when the hare is young: if old, don't divide it down, which will require a strong arm," [A sly hint at the weakness of her readers,] "but put the knife between the leg and back, and give it a little turn inwards at the

\* The clear meaning of this remark is, that, if you are perfected by practice, you will *hit the joint exactly at the first trial*, though you never tried before;—just in the same manner as people learn to swim before going into the water!

† The impartiality of this worthy lady in giving *pudding* to every person, whether they like it or like it not, is truly amiable, and of a piece with that species of boarding-school benevolence which places pudding as a grace before meat, and obliges the young student to wade through a slough of rice or suet before he can revel in the joys of beef or mutton.



joint, which you must endeavour to hit, and not to break by force. When both legs are taken off, there is a *fine collop* on each side the back." [We all love a slice from poor Puss—this is, indeed, the hare and many friends.] "Then divide the back into as many pieces as you please, and take off the shoulders, which are by many preferred, and are called the sportsman's pieces.\* When every one is helped, cut off the head," and take it to yourself. "Put your knife between the upper and lower jaw, and divide them, which will enable you to lay the upper flat on your plate; then put the point of the knife into the centre, and cut the head in two. The *ears* and *brains* may be helped then to those who like them."

By the way, the same individual has seldom a *penchant* for *both*. Our noble patronisers of the Italian Opera have nice ears and no brains, and many a sinister limb of the law has a plentiful stock of brains and no ears.

Here is a body of rules, scientifically laid down, like the figure of a country dance, by right and left, leading outsides, and galloping down the middle, by the study of which, the enlightened reader, when a goose or hare is before him,

May *carve* it like a dish fit for the gods,  
Not hew it like a carcass for the hounds.

It is to be feared, however, that this to many readers is all algebra, without the aid of the dotted engravings, which, by the way, are so badly executed, that it may be safely said, never were such good dinners served up on such indifferent *plates*. To those, however, who do comprehend them, the utility of the above extracts is too obvious to render any apology necessary; and would to propriety that certain ladies and gentlemen would take their degrees in this culinary college, ere they pretend to carve for themselves! "Can none remember—yes, I know all must"—some one of his acquaintance, whose zeal to do the honours of the table is as intense

\* A hint from Horace, viz:—

*"Sapiens sectabitur armos."*

by which we learn that SAPIENS is Latin for a *sportsman*.

as that of a missionary to visit the coast of Africa, and who is about as well skilled in the science he professes to teach? Give such a man the hands of Briareus, and he would gladly dissect a whole city feast at a single sitting. With a generosity peculiar to himself, he dispenses the gravy over the faces and waistcoats of his fellow guests, leaving the poor goose or duck as dry as a Scotch metaphysical essay. When a man of this stamp thrusts his fork into the breast of a woodcock, the company present express as much alarm as if the bird were alive. Let no such man be trusted.

What a fine subject for a didactic poem is carving! What is Mr. Godwin about? It is well known he addresses his writs to the late sheriff of London, who, upon such an occasion, would doubtless usher the bantling to light. It is true the worthy night eats no meat himself,\* since he ate up the heifer; but is that a reason why he should be unmindful of those that do?

But as humanity is the brightest jewel in a lady's tiara, it grieves me to be obliged to reprehend, in the most unqualified terms, the following receipt for making hare-soup, page 104:—"Take an old hare that is good for nothing else, cut it into pieces," &c. Fie, madam, are these your fine feelings? Sterne, who wept over a dead jackass, like any sandman, would never have forgiven you; Mr. Southey, mounted on old Poulter's mare, will *vilipend* you through a whole Thalaba. Is this your respect for age? Suppose some giant of the Monk Lewis breed, having a penchant for human flesh, were to seize you in his paws, and utter the following culinary dictum:—"Take an *old woman* that is good for nothing else, cut her into pieces, &c." Gentle lady, would you like to be served so yourself?

"Order is heaven's first law," quoth the Poet of Reason; and as good eating is a heaven on earth to so many respectable natives of London, it can excite no surprise that our dictatrix from the pantry has prefixed to her work an ample and well-arranged table of contents, dividing her subject into thirteen parts, embracing every

\* Sir Richard Phillips is the late sheriff alluded to.

dainty that can tickle the human palate. She commences with the scaly tenants of the flood, and ends with receipts to prevent hay from firing, to wash old deeds, to preserve a head of hair, and to die gloves to look like York tan or Limerick. What an excursive fancy are some ladies blessed with !

A limb of the law might call the latter part of this division *travelling out of the record*, but surely without due consideration. *Tempus edax rerum* is a precept old as the hills. Now, as it is well known that the old gentleman will now and then nibble a lady's glove, "then her flowing hair," or gnaw the title-deeds of her husband's estate, why should not *his* food be treated of as well as ours ? Nor let any carping critic condemn her dissertation on home brewery and sauces as too prolific. The evils that spring from inattention to these articles are more numerous than the woes that sprang from the wrath of the son of Peleus. I will not repeat the well-known catastrophe at Salthill ; death, in that case, was a welcome visiter to snatch eight unfortunate gentlemen from the calamity of an ill-cooked repast. But I will put it to the recollection of the majority of my readers, whether they are not in the habit of dining with some individual whom Nature seems to have manufactured without a palate. If you ask the footman of such an unhappy being for bread, you receive something possessing the consistence of a stone. His turbot has all the dignity of age, his port wine all the fire of youth. With an anxious forefinger and a disappointed thumb, you turn up his fish-cruets one by one, and find that they resemble the pitchers of the Belides. His champagne is a copartnership of tar-water and treacle, and his lobster-sauce is so alarmingly congealed as to be fitter for Salmon's wax-work than for salmon.

These, these are the trials of human fortitude ! Talk of Job scolded by his wife, or Cato pent up in Utica—paha !—How different the taste and the establishment of the renowned Decius ! He is an assiduous frequenter of the Tabernacle, where he ponders on the joys to come—when the dinner hour arrives. His thoughts are revolving, not on the new birth, but on the new spit, which

kindly roasts his venison without wounding it. If the afternoon service happen to extend beyond the usual period, then may Decius be seen to issue from his pew like the lioness from her den. Not having the fear of repletion before his eyes, but moved and instigated by an over-roasted haunch, he darts through the aisle, and knocks down the intervening babes of grace like so many piping ninepins.

Such is the laudable zeal of a man whose ruling passion floats in a tureen of mock-turtle, and yet so unsatisfactory are all sublunary enjoyments, it may sometimes be doubted whether the rearing of such costly pyramids of food be worth the founder's trouble. Goldsmith somewhere expresses a strong objection to two thousand pounds a year, because they will not procure a man two appetites; and another starveling son of the Muses, in his fable of the Court of Death, seems to insinuate that intemperance may in time injure the constitution. Certain it is, that three deadly foes to the disciple of Epicurus, intituled Plethora, Apoplexy, and bilious Gout, are often found to lie *perdu* beneath a masked battery of French paste, and, crossing the course of the voluptuary, like the weird sisters in the path of the benighted Thane, so annoy him, even while seated on that throne of human felicity, a tavern chair, as to make it a moot point whether it was worth his while to wade through the blood of so many animals to attain it.

Mark what Alexis, a Greek poet, says:—

“O that Nature  
Might quit us of this overbearing burden,  
This tyrant god, the belly! Take that from us,  
With all its bestial appetites, and man,  
Exonerated man, shall be all soul.”

A truce, however, to these unpalatable reflections, and let us revert to more agreeable topics. The due arrangement of a dinner-table is not so easy as some folks imagine. Every one recollects the anecdote of the Gray's Inn student, who entertained his guests, consisting of two pining old maids and a bilious nabob, with

boiled tripe at top, boiled tripe at bottom, and a round of beef, garnished with parsnips, in the centre. Any man possessed of money may give a dinner, but to give a proper one, requires both taste and fancy; and as those two ingredients are not always discernible in the *tout ensemble* of a son of Plutus, our authoress has kindly supplied their place, by inventing a scale of dinners suited to all pockets: loading the stomach of her readers, as Locket clogged the ankles of his customers, with fetters of all prices from one guinea to ten.

It is now time to close the present article, for the length of which nothing but the extreme importance of the subject can atone. With a trembling pen I have ventured to touch upon the science of luxurious eating, of which, it must be confessed, my knowledge is derived rather from theory than practice; and in which, therefore, it is highly probable I have committed some mistakes. Shades of Apicius, Darteneuf, and Quin, forgive me if I have erred! Our journey, gentle reader, has been through a delightful country, recalling to our recollection the juvenile tale of Miranda, or the Royal Ram; inasmuch as we are credibly informed that the air within the blissful domains of that woolly potentate was darkened with showers of tarts and cheese-cakes. Let me entreat thee to repair, without loss of time, to the house of Mr. John Murray, of Fleet Street, where, for seven shillings and sixpence, thou mayest purchase the work of which I have furnished thee with a sort of hashed analysis. Then, if thou art a man of taste, thou wilt order a dainty repast after the fashion of one of those enumerated within the precincts of pages 219 and 223; and then, when thy envious covers are snatched off by a skilful domestic, and a steam ascends which might gratify the nose of Jove himself, and make him lean from Olympus to smell, I hope thou wilt, as in duty bound, exclaim in the words of the pious king Cymbeline:—

“Laud we the gods,  
And let the crooked smoke climb to their nostrils  
From our blest altars.”

## MISCELLANEOUS PIECES IN VERSE.

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### THE DINNER.

Thus to his mate Sir Richard spoke—  
“The House is up; from London smoke  
All fly; the Park grows thinner;  
The friends who fed us, will condemn  
Our backward board; we must feed them:  
My dear, let's give a dinner.”

“Agreed!” his lady cries; “and first  
Put down Sir George and Lady Hurst.”  
“Done! now *I* name—the Gatties!”  
“My dear, they're rather stupid,”—“Stuff!  
We dine with them, and that's enough:  
Besides, I like their patties.”

“Who next?”—“Sir James and Lady Dunn.”  
“O no.”—“Why not?”—“They'll bring their son,  
That regular tormentor;  
A couple, with one child, are sure  
To bring three fools outside their door,  
Whene'er abroad they venture.”

“Who next?”—“John Yates.”—“What! M. P. Yates;  
Who, o'er the bottle, stale debates  
Drags forth ten times a minute?”  
“He's like the rest: whoever *fails*,  
Out of St. Stephen's school tells tales  
He'd quake to utter in it.”

“Well, have him if you will.”—“The Grants.”  
“My dear, remember, at your aunt's  
I view'd them with abhorrence.”  
“Why so?”—“Why, since they've come from Lisle,  
(Which they call *Leel*) they bore our isle  
With Brussels, Tours, and Florence.

"Where could you meet them?"—"At the Nore."  
 "Who next?"—"The Lanes."—"We want no more—  
 Lieutenant General Dixey."  
 "He's deaf."—"But then he'll bring Tom White."  
 "True! ask them both: the boy's a bite;  
 We'll place him next to Lizzy."

'Tis seven—the Hunts, the Dunns, Jack Yates,  
 The Grants assemble: dinner waits;  
 In march the Lanes, the Gatties.  
 Objections, taunts, rebukes are fled,  
 Hate, scorn, and ridicule lie dead  
 As so many Donatties.

Yates carves the turbot, Lane the lamb,  
 Sir George the fowls, Sir James the ham,  
 Dunn with the beef is busy;  
 His helpmate pats her darling boy,  
 And, to complete a mother's joy,  
 Tom White sits next to Lizzy.

All trot their hobbies round the room;  
 They talk of routs, retrenchments, Hume,  
 The bard who won't lie fallow,  
 The Turks, the statue in the Park,  
 Which both the Grants, at once, remark  
 Jump'd down from Mount Cavallo.

They talk of dances, operas, dress,  
 They nod, they smile, they acquiesce;  
 None pout; all seem delighted:  
 Heavens! can this be the self-same set,  
 So courteously received when met;  
 So taunted when invited?

So have I seen, at Drury Lane,  
 A play rehearsed: the Thespian train  
 In arms; the bard astounded;  
 Scenes cut; parts shifted; songs displaced;  
 Jokes mangled; characters effaced;  
 "Confusion worse confounded."

But, on the night, with seeming hearts,  
 The warring tribe their several parts  
 Enact with due decorum.  
 Such is the gulf that intervenes  
 'Twixt those who get behind the scenes,  
 And those who sit before 'em!

## THE NEW MARRIAGE ACT.

CASES FOR THE OPINION OF DOCTOR LUSHINGTON.

Dear Doctor, in vain, by September set free,  
 Have I, a poor Proctor, eloped toward the sea.  
 This new Marriage Act, which my Lord Ellenborough  
 Has whisk'd through the House like a colt o'er the Curragh,  
 Has set the pent fears of my clients at large,—  
 I'm boarded by dunces, like Pope in his barge.  
 My bag won't contain half the Cases they draw,  
 The Church can't absolve, so they fly to the law.  
 The magistrates' clerks know not how to behave, it's  
 So puzzling to draw up the right affidavits:  
 Then how shall I pick Cupid's bone of contention,  
 Remote as I am from the scene of dissension?

My client, Jack Junk, with a heart hot as *Ætna*,  
 Has cut through the knot by post-horses and *Gretna*.  
 One says the church notice must not be a scrawl;  
 One says there is no need of notice at all;  
 A third swears it must be in black and in white;  
 A fourth hints that, where neither party can write,  
 A cross is sufficient; forgetting, of course,  
 That a cross before marriage is cart before horse.

My female complainants are equally busy,  
 And ply me with complaints till I'm really dizzy.  
 Miss Struggle, aged fifty, still baiting Love's trap,  
 Asks who keeps the children, should Hymen's chain snap.  
 Miss Blue, equi-wrinkled, has dipp'd me in ink,  
 With doubts on divorces *à mens.* and *è vinc.*  
 Aunt Jane understands it; her niece Mary Anne  
 Says she cannot conceive—others say that she can;  
 And gladly would hie to St. George's full trot,  
 To clench Cupid's nail while the iron is hot.  
 To flourish my flail, feather mounted, and draw  
 A handful of wheat from a barn full of straw,  
 Five cases I've hit on, in Cupid's dominion,  
 Of which I request your advice and opinion.

Case one.—Kitty Crocodile married Ned Bray,  
 And swore she would honour, and love, and obey.  
 The honeymoon over, thorns mingle with roses,  
 And Ned's upper head is the picture of Moses.  
 Love, honour, obey, toll a funeral knell,  
 Up start, in their place, hate, disdain and rebel.



You'll please to look over the statute, and say,  
 In case, at the next Lent Assizes, Ned Bray  
 Indict Mistress Kate for false swearing, can her jury  
 Bring the delinquent in guilty of perjury?

Case *two*.—Captain Boyd, to his tailor in debt,  
 Adored, at the Op'ra, Ma'amselle Pirouette;  
 'Twas Psyche that slew him; he woo'd; she consented;  
 Both married in May, and in June both repented;  
 The steps that she took gain'd eight hundred a year,  
 The step that he took made that sum disappear.  
 Please look at the Act, and advise whether Boyd  
 By debt made the deed *nudum pactum* and void;  
 And say, if eight hundred per annum Miss Pirouette  
 May get back from Boyd, by a count *Quantum meruit*!

Case *three*.—Martha Trist, of Saint Peter-le-Poor,  
 Had stuck up her notice upon her church door.  
 The Act (section eight) says, the wife must annex  
 Her proper description, age, station, and sex.  
 Her age, four-and-thirty, she fix'd to the door,  
 But somehow the wafer stuck over the four;  
 And Martha, if judged by some ill-temper'd men,  
 Would seem to have own'd to no more than thrice ten.  
 If Wildgoose, her spouse, should discover the flaw,  
 Please to say if the wedlock's avoided by law;  
 And if, "on the whole," you would not deem it safer  
 To interline "four" at the top of the wafer.

Case *four*.—Captain Sykes won the heart of Miss Dighton  
 While driving a dennet from Worthing to Brighton.  
 Her West India fortune his hot bosom stirs,  
 His cap and mustachios are too much for hers.  
 They married; the Captain was counting his gain,  
 When sugar and rum grew a drug in Mark-lane.  
 In temper both fired; 'twas a word and a blow;  
 (See Dibdin's Reports, Captain Wattle and Roe;)  
 And both, while the stool is at either head flung,  
 Try to tear with their teeth what they tied with their tongue.  
 Please to study the Act for this couple, and tell 'em  
 If they can't be replaced "*statu quo ante bellum*."

Case *five*.—Doctor Swapp'em, allied to a peer,  
 Has farm'd his great tithes for five thousand a year.  
 He never is vex'd but when pheasants are wild;  
 And got a rich helpmate who bore him no child.  
 The curate of Swapp'em is pious and thrifty,

His annual stipend in pounds mounts to fifty;  
 His helpmate in annual parturience is seen,  
 His children already amount to fifteen.  
 While keeping the *dictum Ecclesiæ* in view,  
 (God never sends mouths without sending bread too,)  
 You'll please to advise if the Act has a clause  
 To marshal the bread, or to average the jaws.

But see, while my pen your opinion implores,  
 Fresh couples, love-stricken, besiege the church doors.  
 The porch of St. Anne's ninety couple disgorges,  
 Thrice ninety stand fix'd on the steps of St. George's;  
 The fresh and the jaded promiscuously mingle,  
 Some seek to get married, some seek to get single:  
 While *those*, sage Civilian, you're fettering, please  
 To hit on a scheme to emancipate *these*,  
 Teach mortals, who find, like the man who slew Turnus,  
 A marvellous facile descent to Avernus,  
 Like him, back their Pluto-bound steps to recall,  
 And breathe the light ether of Bachelors' Hall:  
 Do this, through my medium, dear Doctor, and then  
 Ere Easter my life on't, we both are made men;  
 My purse shall swell, laden by fee upon fee,  
 King Proctor, in war-time, were nothing to me:  
 While you, happy man, down Pactolus's tide  
 Your silver-ear'd galley triumphant shall guide,  
 And whirl'd in no eddy, o'ertaken by no ill,  
 Reign Hymen's Arch-Chancellor, *vice* Lord Stowell.

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## THE STATUES AT LARGE.

### A ROYAL DIALOGUE.

#### CHARLES.

George, my equestrian brother, though  
 The fates have placed us *dos-à-dos*  
 In queer quadrilling fashion,  
 Prithee, in spite of critic snarls,  
 Grant to your royal brother Charles  
 Five minutes' conversation.

#### GEORGE.

Artists to condemnation doom  
 My *anno domini* costume,

Though to my era proper:  
 The epithets of "poor" and "flat"  
 Stick in my skirts, three-corner'd hat,  
 A pig-tail made of copper.

CHARLES.

Why, ay, my beard, my antique air,  
 My mantle, boots, and flowing hair,  
 Ambitiously aspire  
 Your lovely pedestal above,  
 Yet—measured by our people's love—  
 Methinks you're standing higher.

GEORGE.

Though dwelling now in loftier scenes,  
 Each, thinking of the ways and means,  
 By golden trump is summon'd.  
 I to the banking-house below  
 Cry, "Mammon, to the *Ransom*, ho!"  
 Your right-hand man is Drummond.

CHARLES.

When James succumb'd to Nassau's yoke,  
 My palace, hid in lurid smoke,  
 Red Vulcan made a ruin.  
 My banquet-house survives alone,  
 And that—for reasons of my own—  
 I'd rather not be viewing.

GEORGE.

Co-equal fates our dwellings mark;  
 My mansion in St. James's Park  
 A new *Stonehenge* o'ermasters.  
 Yon marble arch exclaims—"Avaunt!  
 Duke Sheffield's comfortable haunt—  
 Red brick and white pilasters!"

CHARLES.

There with my subjects ill at ease,  
 By sturdy puritan M. P's."  
 Eluded and outwitted,  
 Ent'ring the house, with visage grim,  
 I sought for Hazlerig and Pym,  
 And found "the birds had flitted."

GEORGE.

Intruding on forbidden ground—  
Had I thus ventured to impound  
Joe Hume or Daniel Whittle,  
Bearding St. Stephen, face to face,  
The hardness of the Speaker's mace  
Had proved my sceptre brittle.

CHARLES.

Shall I spur on with iron heel  
And dispossess Sir Robert Peel?  
Ah me! I am not able.  
The "new Whitehall," foretold by Pope,  
Lives only in the poet's hope,  
And Ripley builds a fable.

GEORGE.

What if, descending hand in hand,  
Statues at large, we quit our stand  
To wonder-strike the many,  
And go to court by way of prank,  
Like him, the marble man, who drank  
With gallant Don Giovanni?

CHARLES.

No, brother, haunt no more that scene—  
They whom it most concerns, I ween,  
Would deem us rude aggressors.  
Let neither from the stirrup stir—  
Heirs seldom want to disinter  
Departed predecessors.

GEORGE.

Imagination cannot reach  
A fairer substitute for each  
Than gentle Queen Victoria.  
Long may she reign—as long as we—  
And may her Maids of Honour be  
Felicitas et Gloria!

## CLUB LAW.

Dear Tom, since, by a lucky knack,  
 Your white balls overtop the black,  
 And counter-canvass smother,  
 Let me your mental garment darn,  
 As old Polonius spun a yarn  
 To fair Ophelia's brother.

"Be thou familiar," should you see  
 At dinner an austere M. P.  
 Just as his glass he's filling,  
 Accost him—whatsoever his rank—  
 With "Sir, I'd thank you for a frank,"  
 And save your aunt a shilling.

"Give every man (of wealth) thine ear;"  
 Smile when he smiles, his sallies cheer,  
 Out his connexions ferret;  
 Or roar his catch, or sing his palm:  
 But, Thomas, "never dull thy psalm"  
 By shaking hands with Merit.

At a house-dinner show your fun,—  
 Mount a horse-laugh, quiz, banter, pun;  
 Be saucy as a squirrel;  
 But if your foe possess a pair  
 Of Manton's polish'd pops, "beware  
 Of entrance to a quarrel."

If a roast fillet deck the board,  
 With bacon, you can well afford  
 To leave the viand *per se*;  
 But if a haunch supplant the veal,  
 "Grapple" the joint "with hooks of steel,"  
 And carve it without mercy.

"Apparel oft proclaims the man:"  
 Wear, then, the richest garb you can,  
 Whilst in the club a dweller;  
 And if men doubt your means and ways,  
 Reverse the *caveat emptor* phrase,  
 And cast it to the seller.

"Take each man's censure" in good part;—  
 Pliant humility's an art  
 That copper turns to siller.

“Be not a lender”—memories flit;  
 “Nor borrower”—unless a wit  
 From old Josephus Miller.

Place on the fender both your feet;  
 When Boreas howls, complain of heat,  
 And open all the windows:  
 Ring for a waiter, bang the door,  
 And for your brethren care no more  
 Than Tippoo cared for Hindoos.

Never to acquiesce be seen:  
 To those who dwell on Edmund Kean,  
 Talk of John Kemble’s glories.  
 Dub all who do the civil, prigs;  
 Revile Lord Melbourne to the Whigs,  
 Sir Robert to the Tories.

And now, dear Tom, farewell; the gale  
 “Sits in the shoulder of your sail,”—  
 Defy disapprobation:  
 For, till committee-men begin  
 To ballot *out*, as well as *in*,  
 You’re safe in your location.

## THE SWISS COTTAGE.

“Ye gastric graces of Pall Mall,  
 Fish, soup, and paté, fare ye well,  
 Give me some cot Helvetian,  
 Thither I fain my flight would wing,  
 Of clubs the abdicated king,  
 An uncrown’d Dioclesian.”

Scarce had I thus petition’d Fate,  
 When lo! a card with lines so straight,  
 Arachne seem’d to rule ’em,  
 Woo’d me to fair Pastora’s shrine—  
 An invitation out to dine  
 At Ivy Cottage, Fulham!

“’Tis well!” I cried. “At Wit’s contro  
 Here Temperance will pass the bowl,  
 And Health rise up the winner.  
 Full well I know the classic spot—  
 Swiss is the scenery, Swiss the cot,  
 And Swiss, no doubt, the dinner.

“Deal table; cloth as smooth as silk;  
 Brown loaf; an avalanche of milk;  
 At most a brace of rabbits;  
 Cheese, hard enough to pose a shark;  
 And water, ‘clear as di’mond spark,’  
 To suit my Hindoo habits.

“Six three-legg’d stools, of antique shapes;  
 Ripe figs; a plate of purple grapes,  
 As sweet as honeysuckles;  
 A girl to wait, of buxom hue,  
 In dark-brown bodice, apron blue,  
 Red hose, and silver buckles.”

Nought rose to sever lip and cup:  
 I came. Had Fanny Kelly up  
 The outside stair been skipping,  
 With three long plaits of braided hair,  
 ‘Twould seem the *ipse locus* where  
 Macready pierced the pippin.

But soon the inside put to rout  
 The dreams engender’d by the out;  
 Chintz chairs with sofa paddings;  
 Bright stoves, at war with humid damp;  
 Pianos; rosewood tables; lamps,  
 As brilliant as Aladdin’s.

Fish, soup, and mutton, finely dress’d,  
 Adorn’d the board: a pleasant guest  
 Was placed my right and left on;  
 With dishes lateral, endued  
 With flavour to astonish Ude,  
 Lucullus, or Lord Sefton.

The party, ’mid the sound of corks,  
 (Although the bread was white; the forks  
 Were silver, not metallic,)  
 Seem’d not to see the joke was this,  
 That, while the outside walls were Swiss,  
 The feast was Anglo-Gallic.

So, as in eastern song is shown,  
 Some sable, antiquated crone,  
 As wily as a bailiff,  
 Leads, blindfold, on his hands and knees,  
 Some youth, through alleys dark, to please  
 Great Haroun the Caliph.

The bandage gone, a blaze of light  
 Salutes his now enchanted sight;  
 He views a new creation:  
 Dim Bagdad totters to its fall,  
 A fairy palace smiles, and all  
 Is bright illumination.

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## MUSIC MAD.

"Madamina, il catalogo é questo  
 Delle belle che amo il padron mio:  
 Osservate, legete, con Me."—IL DON GIOVANNI.

For song, in youth, my pulse beat quick,  
 For song, in age, beats quicker;  
 Applauding all, through thin and thick,  
 I shame Bray's veering Vicar.  
 On every voice, when most in vogue,  
 My glad attention lingers;  
 And Leporello's catalogue  
 Echoes my taste in singers.

At twenty-one, as mad as he  
 Who rode on Rozinante,  
 Chain'd to the car of harmony,  
 I bow'd to haughty Banti.  
 My senses all absorb'd in sound,  
 I sang "Ah! mia cara,"  
 And raved; till suddenly I found  
 My antidote in Mara.

Mara I swore to woo for life;  
 But, when she sang in Polly,  
 Her English, as the Robber's Wife,  
 Reliev'd me of my folly.  
 By Mara's pipe no longer fired,  
 I lived uncharm'd by any;  
 Till, conquer'd by the "Soldier Tired,"  
 In Billington's Mandané.



Destined, ere long, again to veer,  
As fickle as Giovanni;  
Fate, to enthral me, made appear  
Majestic Catalani.  
Forth from my pocket her half notes  
Extracted my half guineas,  
Pour'd from the first of human throats,  
Till—follow'd by Grassini's.

Grassini's mournful Proserpine  
Was now my heart's new pattern.  
Oh! how I wish'd my lot were thine,  
Contr'alto, son of Saturn!  
Light Bolla, with her laughing eye,  
Then drove me nearly crazy,  
Till soothed by the sobriety  
Of quiet Camporese.

Ronzi de Begnis' better half  
Then ruled, till jocund Fodor  
Came forward with her easy laugh,  
And put her out of odour.  
Sontag ruled next, and ruled me long,  
Fair fav'rite of Apollo;  
Till Malibran, the Queen of Song,  
Beat baffled Sontag hollow.

Last in the scale, "though last not least,"  
To make my heart uneasy,  
Prime dainty in Euterpe's feast,  
Comes all-accomplish'd Grisi.  
Her magic notes make sorrow flit,  
And Care his wrinkles soften;  
But, since the stalls have spoilt the pit,  
I fail to hear them often.

The pit, of yore, the acts between,  
A lounge, a quiet ramble,  
Is now a bear-garden—a scene  
Of rude and noisy scramble.

Drawn thither from their sylvan haunt  
By Orpheus—who can blame 'em?  
Tigers are charm'd—I only want  
The new police to tame 'em!

---

MY HEAD'S SEVEN AGES.

“At early fifteen,” ere I mourn'd human wrongs,  
My locks, pinch'd by nothing but Nature's warm tongs,  
In colour well match'd with the Colchican fleece,  
Unpunish'd by powder, ungarnish'd by grease,  
Half-way down my back, as then worn by the young,  
In many a corkscrew bewitchingly hung:  
Whoever in print young Napoleon has seen,  
May form a good notion of me at fifteen.

But soon, like a Visigoth marching on Rome,  
The barber rush'd in with his scissors and comb;  
Poor nature was presently push'd to the wall,  
And shriek'd, like Belinda, to see my locks fall:  
My hair scorch'd and frizz'd at the top became horrid,  
Hard knocks of pomatum were dealt on my forehead,  
I look'd like a linnet just caught in a cage,  
So wide of its first was my head's second age!

Ere long my vex'd hair, which, pomaded and sleek,  
Hung straight as John Wesley's adown either cheek,  
By combs metamorphosed, assumed a new shape,  
No longer a pigtail swung black at my nape:  
The queue, with its ligatures spiral in twists,  
Gave place to a knocker as big as my fists:  
Whoever the late Major Topham has seen,  
May form a good notion of me at nineteen.

Now knew I the joys the three Sisters prepare  
For those who depend on the dressers of hair:  
The dandies, who now “seek that bubble repute”  
In the cut of a coat or the bend of a boot,  
Can feebly imagine my often-felt woes,  
With my watch in my hand, and my mask on my nose:  
When lo! the huge knocker retired from the head,  
And back came the pigtail to reign in its stead.

*O caput humanum!* dark dungeon of doubt,  
 Spite of Spurzheim, a labyrinth, inside and out,  
 How fleeting is all that dwells under a hat—  
 The late Duke of Bedford now brought in a plat!  
 And as both Jack and Peter abolish'd their queues,  
 I quickly changed mine for a well-powder'd noose:  
 My head, at that time, will at once re-appear  
 To those who have ever seen Palmer in Sneer.

No sooner had I, Spite of wisdom's rebuke,  
 Pinn'd the faith of my head on the plat of a duke,  
 When sudden his grace much astonished the town  
 With an unpowder'd pate in its natural brown.  
 Away flew pomade: barbers shut up their shops:  
 Their harvest was ruin'd by too many crops;  
 While I, with a nob ev'ry morning brush'd clean,  
*Da-capo'd* the tresses of "early fifteen.

E'er since, Fashion vainly has left me alone,  
 For time works the changes neglected by Ton.  
 My locks, erst so intimate, distant are seen,  
 Their visits are few, and the space far between:  
 Old Time, too, has made me my forelock resign;  
 I never seiz'd his, yet the dog has seized mine,  
 And seems to exclaim—"Prithee pay me my wages:  
 Your head has arrived at the last of its ages!

---

#### FIVE HUNDRED A YEAR.

That gilt middle-path, which the poet of Rome  
 Extoll'd as the only safe highway to bliss;  
 That "haven" which many a poet at home  
 Assures us all Guinea-bound merchantmen miss;  
     That bless'd middle line,  
     Which bard and divine  
     In sonnet and sermon so sigh for, is mine;—  
 My uncle, a plain honest fat auctioneer,  
 Walked off, and bequeath'd me Five Hundred a year.

I ne'er, if I live to the age of Old Parr,  
 Can fail to remember how stared brother Bill,  
 Jack bullied, and Tom, who is now at the Bar,  
 Drove post to a Proctor to knock up the will.

They never could trace  
 What beauty or grace  
 Sir Christopher Catalogue saw in my face,  
 To cut off three youths, to his bosom so dear,  
 And deluge a fourth with Five Hundred a year!

The will, though law-beaten, stood firm as a rock,  
 The probate was properly lodged at the Bank;  
 Transferr'd to my name stood the spleen-moving stock,  
 And I, in the West, bearded people of rank.  
 No longer a clerk,  
 I rode in the Park,  
 Or lounged in Pall Mall till an hour after dark.  
 I enter'd, what seem'd then, a happy career,  
 Possess'd of a gig and Five Hundred a year.

Ere long, I began to be bored by a guest,  
 A strange sort of harpy, who poison'd my feast:  
 He visits, in London, the folks who dwell West,  
 But seldom cohabits with those who live East.  
 Bar, door-chain, or key,  
 Could not keep me free,—  
 As brisk as a bailiff in bolted *Ennui*.  
 "I'm come," he still cried, "to partake of your cheer,  
 I'm partial to folks of Five Hundred a year."

Meanwhile my three brothers, by prudence and care,  
 Got onward in life, while I stuck by the wall;  
 Bill open'd a tea-shop in Bridgewater-square,  
 And Jack, as a writer, grew rich in Bengal.  
 Tom made his impressions  
 Through Newgate transgressions,  
 And got half the business at Clerkenwell Sessions.  
 They march'd in the van, while I lagg'd in the rear,  
 Condemn'd to *Ennui* and Five Hundred a year.

'Too little encouraged to feel self-assured,  
 Too dull for retorts, and too timid for taunts;  
 By daughters and nieces I'm barely endured,  
 And mortally hated by uncles and aunts.  
 If e'er I entangle  
 A girl in an angle,  
 Up steps some Duenna, love's serpent to strangle;  
 "Come hither! don't talk to that fellow, my dear,  
 His income is only Five Hundred a year."

Without tact or talents to get into ton,  
 No calling to stick to, no trade to pursue:  
 Thus London, hard stepmother, leaves me alone,  
 With little to live on, and nothing to do.  
     Could I row a life-boat,  
     Make a boot or a coat,  
     Or serve in a silversmith's shop, and devote  
 My days to employment, my evenings to cheer,  
 I'd gladly give up my Five Hundred a year.

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### SIR DUNDER O'KELLY.

— *Peto regna per undas.*—VIRG.

Old mother O'Kelly, the scold,  
 Who lived in a county of blunder,  
 Called great Tipperary, I'm told,  
 Thus spoke to her little boy Dunder—  
 "I've only got you and a cow,  
 And, since I can't keep all the three,  
 I'd better keep her, you'll allow,  
 Because the kind creature keeps me."

So Dunder O'Kelly set sail  
 From Ireland to better himself,  
 And climb'd up the Holyhead mail  
 To ease Johnny Bull of his pelf.  
 To follow of glory the path,  
 And put British beef in his belly,  
 At Margate, at Brighton, at Bath,  
 He sported Sir Dunder O'Kelly.

Sir Dunder in dancing was skill'd,  
 And look'd very neat in his clothes;  
 But indeed all his beauty was kill'd  
 By a terrible wen on his nose.  
 This double appendage, alas!  
 He thought neither pretty nor proper;  
 Nature gave him one visage of brass,  
 And Bacchus two noses of copper.

He dived into Bath for a bride,  
The ladies all check'd his advances,  
And vow'd they could never abide  
Loose manners, and straiten'd finances;  
One lady alone met his flame,  
With a hop, and a jig, and a nod.  
I ask'd a blind fiddler her name,  
And he answer'd me—*Moll in the Wad.*

His looking-glass set the poor knight  
Ofttimes in his bedchamber raving,  
His ugliness showing at night,  
And eke in the morning when shaving.  
He flung himself down on the floor,—  
Was ever unfortunate elf  
So terribly haunted before  
By a ghost in the shape of himself?

Resolved Charon's eddy to pass,  
His pistol he prim'd, but—O blunder!  
He thought, if he shot at the glass,  
'Twould blow out the brains of Sir Dunder.  
So bang went the slugs at his head,  
At once from this life to dis sever;  
He shot all the quicksilver dead,  
But himself was as lively as ever.

Amazed at the hubbub was he,  
And began, in the midst of the clatter,  
All over to *felo-de-se*,  
But found there was nothing the matter.  
So, glad Charon's eddy to shun,  
His sentiments thus he discloses—  
"Since two heads are better than one,  
Perhaps 'tis the same with two noses."

To his own Tipperary poor Dun,  
From scenes of disturbance and bother,  
Trudged back, like the Prodigal Son,  
And fell on the neck of his mother.  
At home he now follows the plough,  
And, whilst in his rustical courses  
He walks at their tails, you'll allow  
He never can frighten his horses.

# EPITAPH\*

TO THE MEMORY OF  
**GEORGE COLMAN**

THE YOUNGER,  
 WHO SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER  
 AS

PATENTEE OF THE HAYMARKET THEATRE.

HE WAS

PRE-EMINENT AS A DRAMATIST,

ADMIRER AS A POET,

CONSPICUOUS AS A WIT,

AND

BELOVED AS A MAN.

Colman, the Muse's child, the Drama's Pride,  
 Whose works now waken joy, or grief impart;  
 Humour with pathos, wit with sense allied,  
 A playful fancy, and a feeling heart,—  
 His task accomplish'd, and his circuit run,  
 Here finds at last his monumental bed;  
 Take then, departed Shade, this lay from one  
 Who lov'd thee living, and laments thee dead.

Born, October 21st, 1762.

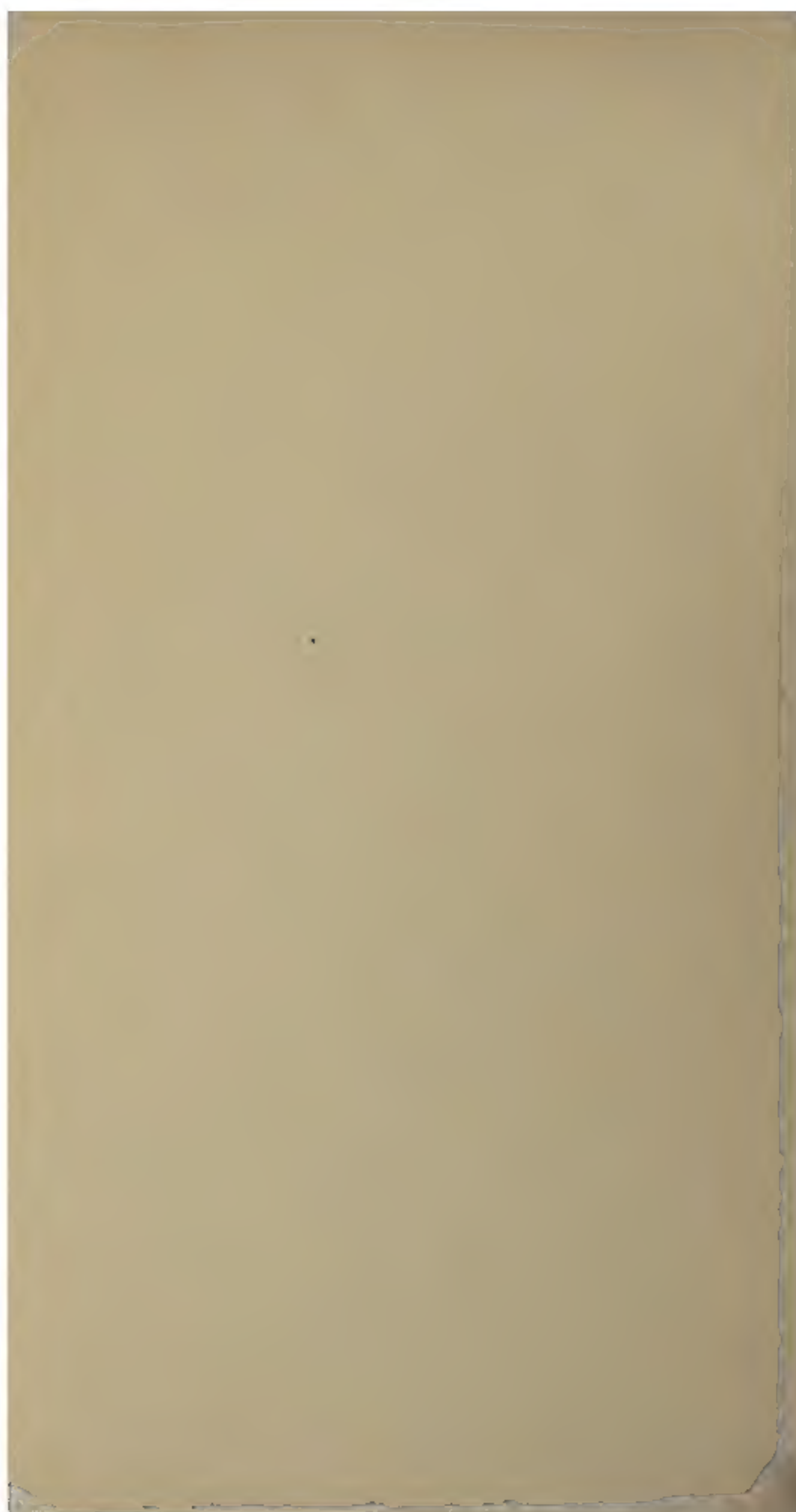
Died, October 26th, 1836.

\* For this and other communications the Editor begs to make his acknowledgments to Mrs. Matthews.











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